



XL Showdown Set

Senate Passes Keystone XL Oil Pipeline Bill

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. returns to his office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015, after winning a critical vote on the Keystone XL Pipeline bill. The Senate on Thursday passed a bill to force approval of the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline, which President Barack Obama is certain to veto in his first official clash with the new Republican-majority Congress.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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Obama to seek to bust US spending limits by \$74 billion



President Barack Obama smiles as he makes opening remarks at the House Democratic Issues Conference in Philadelphia, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama called for a surge in government spending Thursday, setting up a certain clash with Republicans who insist that federal spending must be held in check.

The proposal from the president reflects the White House's newfound confidence in the economy. It comes two months after the president's fellow Democrats were routed in November elections that gave Republicans control of both houses of Congress. Presidential budgets are proposals that seldom resemble what Congress eventually passes and Republicans are expected to make major changes to Obama's plan.

Taking a defiant tone, Obama vowed not to stand on the sidelines as he laid out his opening offer to Congress during remarks in Philadelphia, where Democrats from the House of Representatives were gathered for their annual retreat.

"We need to stand up and go on offensive and not be defensive about what we believe in," Obama said. Mocking Republicans for their leaders' newfound interest in poverty and the middle class, he questioned whether they would back it up with substance when it mattered.

Obama's aides believe that improving conditions give Obama credibility to push his spending priorities unabashedly — despite the fact that Republicans still believe government spends far too much.

Federal deficits, gas prices and unemployment are all falling, while Obama's poll numbers have crept upward. The president has been newly combative as he argues it's time to ease the harsh measures that were taken to help pull the economy out of recession. Obama's budget, to be formally released Monday, will call for \$74 billion more than the levels frozen in place by across-the-board cuts agreed to by both Democrats and Republicans and signed by

Obama into law. The White House said his new budget proposals will "fully reverse" the so-called sequestration cuts by increasing spending on both the domestic and military sides by similar amounts.

Under Obama's proposal, national security programs would see an increase of \$38 billion over current spending limits, raising the defense budget to \$561 billion. On the domestic side,

Obama is calling for \$530 billion in spending — an increase of \$37 billion.

White House said his budget will be "fully paid for with cuts to inefficient spending programs and closing tax loopholes," but taxpayers will have to wait until the budget is made public to find out exactly how.

Yet Obama's move also puts Republicans in a precarious position.

Many Republicans want to spend more on defense, especially in light of threats from terrorism and extremist groups. But Republicans are divided about how to pay. While some have argued for ignoring the spending limits, others want to offset the hikes with cuts to either domestic programs or so-called mandatory programs that cover pensions and health care for the elderly. □



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McCain to protesters: 'Get out of here, you low-life scum'

LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain kicked protesters out of a committee hearing Thursday, calling them "low-life scum" as they hollered for the arrest of one of the witnesses, former secretary of state Henry Kissinger. Shortly after Kissinger, 91, took a seat at the witness table, several protesters from the anti-war group Code Pink approached from behind, waving signs and a pair of handcuffs, and chanting, "Arrest Henry Kissinger for war crimes." "You know, you're going to have to shut up or I'm go-

ing to have you arrested," McCain said from the podium, calling for U.S. Capitol Police to remove them. As officers escorted the protesters out of the hearing room, the unsuccessful 2008 Republican presidential candidate, a decorated Vietnam veteran and former prisoner of war, growled, "Get out of here, you low-life scum." U.S. Capitol Police Sgt. Kimberly Schneider said three people were removed from the room, but no arrests were made. In a statement later, McCain noted a gap between the beginning of the protest and the arrival of officers.



Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., stands up at the start of a hearing with former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015, on Capitol Hill

in Washington. Protesters interrupted the start of a Senate Armed Services hearing as they shouted at Kissinger, calling him a war criminal. Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., is at right.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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"With no U.S. Capitol Police intervening, the episode went on for several minutes," McCain said. He added that he had spoken with police officials and expects that "those responsible will be held fully accountable for their actions."

The upheaval came Thursday during a committee hearing that also featured testimony from former secretaries of state Madeleine Albright and George P. Shultz, who were sitting at the witness table with Kissinger.

Code Pink protesters routinely interrupt congressional hearings and are ushered out by police. But

Thursday's incident was different, McCain said, because the protesters came within inches of Kissinger and waved what appeared to be metal handcuffs near his head.

At one point, a protester alleged that from 1969 to 1973, Kissinger, who was a national security adviser to President Richard Nixon before being named secretary of state, "oversaw" the deaths of millions of people in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. The protester said many thousands more people died from the effects of the defoliant Agent Orange, or from unexploded U.S. ordnance littering the countryside. □

US Senate passes Keystone XL oil pipeline bill

CORAL DAVENPORT

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WASHINGTON - The Senate on Thursday passed a bill to force approval of the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline, which President Barack Obama is certain to veto in his first official clash with the new Repub-

lican-majority Congress. Passage of the Senate bill sends the measure back to the House, which passed a largely similar bill earlier this month. House leaders are still deciding whether to simply pass the Senate bill as it is, or to hold a conference merging the House and Senate bills into

State Department environmental review of the proposed pipeline, released last year, concluded that its construction would not significantly increase the rate of planet-warming pollution into the atmosphere.

After that review was re-

leased, he could weigh in as soon as February.

Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., who is a chief sponsor of the bill, said, "You've got Congress approving it on a bipartisan basis. All six states on the route have approved it. The Nebraska court decision is done. The American people overwhelmingly support it. The president has to consider all that when he makes his decision."

"This issue is ready for a decision," said Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, one of the groups that has held hundreds of rallies outside the White House and around the country, urging Obama to reject the project. "After the agencies have weighed in, this

issue has been examined enough and the president has everything he needs to make this decision."

"I bet your lunch he'll reject it," he said. "We're very confident he'll say no."

Despite the fierce debate over the Keystone, and its potency as a symbol of energy and environmental policy, experts have pointed out repeatedly that that symbolism vastly outweighs its substance as either energy or economic policy. Environmentalists fighting the construction of the pipeline contend that by providing a conduit to oil from the Alberta oil sands, which produces more carbon pollution when extracted than conventional oil, the pipeline will contribute to climate change. □



Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., sponsor of the Keystone XL pipeline bill, right, joined by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., talks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015, after winning a critical vote on the Keystone XL Pipeline bill. The Senate on Thursday passed a bill to force approval of the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline, which President Barack Obama is certain to veto in his first official clash with the new Republican-majority Congress.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

lican-majority Congress. The five-year fight over the Keystone pipeline has become a proxy symbol for far broader fights over climate change, energy and the economy, and for the conflict between Obama and congressional Republicans. When Republicans won control of the Senate late last year, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the new majority leader, chose the Keystone bill as the first measure Republicans would send to Obama. The White House promptly declared that Obama would veto the measure - which would force the approval of a proposed 1,779-mile oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico - in a stroke of the pen that is expected to be the opening shot in a series of vetoes of Republican measures.

The Senate voted 62-36 in favor of building the pipeline.

a new bill, which would then be voted on by each chamber. Either way, however, the bill is expected to reach the president's desk as soon as next week.

Obama, who currently retains authority to approve or deny the permitting of the pipeline because it crosses an international border, is expected to veto the bill because it would remove his executive authority to make the final decision.

But pressure is mounting on him from both sides to at last make that decision, which has been pending since he first took office.

Obama has repeatedly said that he was waiting for all reviews and processes to be completed before he made a final decision. In 2013, Obama said that his verdict on the pipeline would be based on whether or not its construction would worsen climate change. But an 11-volume

leased, Obama said that he would not issue a decision until a court case in Nebraska over the pipeline's route through that state was settled. Earlier this month, the Nebraska court cleared the way for the pipeline's construction through that state.

Obama has also said that he wants to wait until a series of reviews by additional Cabinet agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the departments of Defense, Interior, Homeland Security and Commerce, are complete.

The deadline for those reviews, aimed at determining whether the project is in the national interest, is Monday.

Advocates on both sides of the debate are urging Obama to make a decision soon, and some people familiar with Obama's thinking say that after all the years of deliberation

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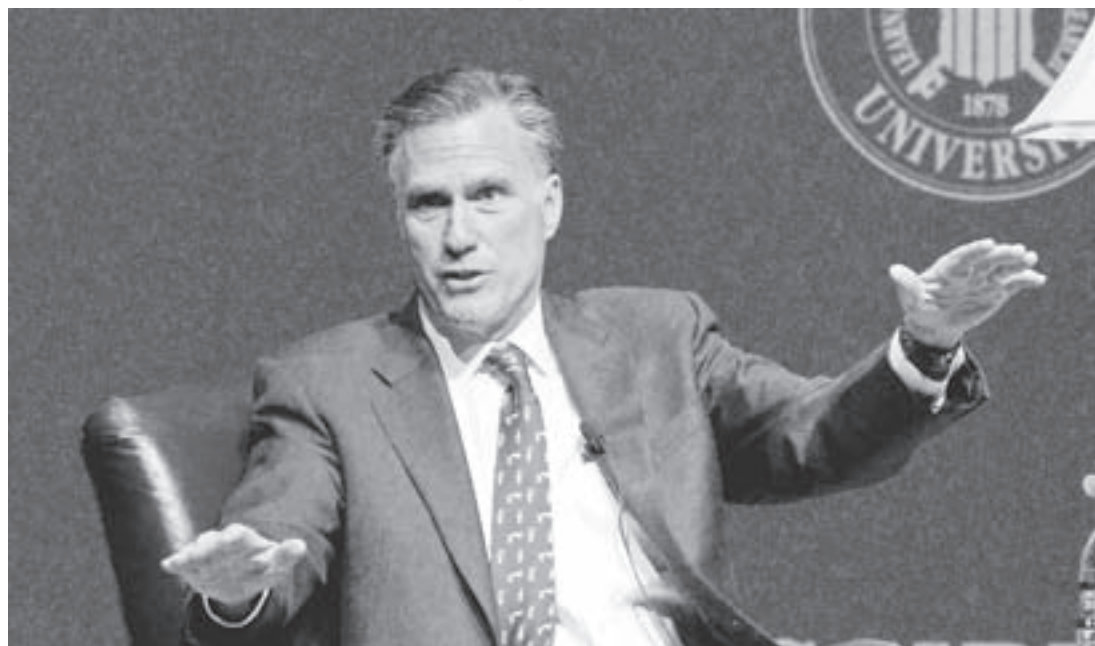
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As Romney weighs '16 bid, past donors commit to Jeb Bush



Former GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney answers a question after his lecture to the student body and guests at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Miss., Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

**THOMAS BEAUMONT
STEVE PEOPLES**

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Mitt Romney, closing in on a decision about whether to again run for president, is finding that several past major fundraisers and donors in key states have already committed to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

The donors, in interviews with The Associated Press, said they see in Bush what they liked about Romney in 2012, but also something Romney could not muster in his two previous campaigns: what it takes to win the White House for the Republicans. Bush is the brother and son of former presidents.

Also, the donors said, they took the former Massachusetts governor at his word when he said he would not run for president a third time. Romney, however, recently told a private group of donors that he was considering another run. The defections to Bush do not, as of yet, appear so definitive as to keep Rom-

ney from the race.

But hesitation from some Romney loyalists and outright defection from others will make his path to the nomination, should he move ahead with a third campaign, a greater challenge than it was four years ago, when he was viewed as the front-runner from the campaign's outset.

"I think it's becoming exceedingly difficult," said Gordon D. Sondland, a member of Romney's national 2012 finance team who is now solidly behind Bush.

President Barack Obama is barred from a third term, and Hillary Rodham Clinton is the presumed Democratic frontrunner.

The Republican race remains wide open, but Romney would enter a crowded field if he runs.

Earlier this week, several veterans of Republican politics told the AP they felt all of the major candidates — Romney, Bush, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Sen. Marco Rubio and Wisconsin

Gov. Scott Walker among them — would be able to raise the money needed to compete in a primary campaign that may feature as many as two dozen contenders.

On Thursday, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said he has set up a committee to explore running, portraying himself as a proven winner and a conservative willing to work with Democrats. Graham has been a close ally of Sen. John McCain, the 2008 Republican presidential nominee who lost to Obama.

Romney has acknowledged privately in recent weeks that he needs to make a decision soon — perhaps within the next two weeks.

His aides acknowledge a third campaign will be more difficult than his second, but insist he will have the necessary financial support, noting his supporters raised more than \$1 billion during the 2012 election. □

New push in Congress for more oversight of US aid agency

RONNIE GREENE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Key U.S. senators said they want more oversight of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the U.S. government's development finance agency that was the subject of an Associated Press investigation earlier this week into a failed \$217 million energy project in West Africa marked by insider connec-

tions and questionable due diligence.

The AP's review put renewed attention on oversight of the federal agency. Last year, legislation that would have created the position of an inspector general inside OPIC, part of larger legislation known as the Energize Africa Act, failed to pass Congress. Bill co-author Sen. Bob Corker, a Republican and the new chairman of the Senate

Foreign Relations Committee, continues to support the measure. A committee aide said the effort carries broad support.

OPIC, which has an annual \$3 billion portfolio, itself supports the creation of an independent IG, a spokesman told the AP.

"We hope it passes," agency spokesman Charles Stadlander said.

An inspector general office could bring enhanced

scrutiny to a federal agency that its own president, Elizabeth Littlefield, has called government's "best-kept secret."

OPIC has an Office of Accountability, but the independent office, created in 2005 to examine complaints, has produced reports on just five cases since its inception. The former accountability director served through September to finish a detailed review

of the Liberia project; the position has been vacant since, though OPIC said it intends to fill the slot.

Under law, the inspector general of the U.S. Agency for International Development can conduct reviews of OPIC "as may be necessary." But the USAID reviews have been limited, usually a one-page annual summary of OPIC's compliance with a federal information security act. □



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US Financial Front:

Almost half of American households exhaust salaries



Natalie Parker, director of human resources at the Doubletree Grand, left, talks with job applicants during a job fair at the Hospitality Institute. Reports show most Americans are treading along a dangerous financial tightrope, where one slip could be devastating. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve has declared economic growth “solid.” But several new reports show most Americans are treading along a dangerous financial tightrope, where one slip could be devastating.

Nearly half of U.S. households — 47 percent — say they spend all of their income, go into debt or dip into savings to meet their annual expenses, according to an analysis of Fed survey data released Thursday by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

“They could not withstand a serious financial emergency,” said Diana Elliott, a Pew research manager who co-wrote the analysis. “That really is the contrast to the macroeconomic story” of a recovering economy.

“Macro indicators tell us a lot, but they don’t tell us what is specifically happening within families,” she said.

If a typical middle-class household had to weather a period of joblessness without any income, they would exhaust their avail-

able savings within 21 days, the analysis found. If that same family also cashed in all their retirement investments to get by, they would burn through those assets within four months. Nor is there much flexibility in family budgets. Americans are devoting more of their income to housing, health care and personal insurance and pensions since 1984. After adjusting for inflation, their average annual expenses have risen 6 percent to \$51,105 during that period. Their earnings have largely been flat for three decades — increasing only when factoring in government “transfers” such as tax cuts and Social Security checks.

The household numbers contrast sharply with broader economic indicators that tell a more upbeat story. According to those figures, the U.S. economy has roared back to life in recent months after muddling its way out of the Great Recession over the past seven years.

The unemployment rate has plunged to 5.6 percent from 6.7 percent over the past year. Gross domestic

product surged at an annual pace of 4.8 percent in second and third quarters of 2014, with growth projected to be above 3 percent in the fourth quarter in a government report being released Friday.

Fed officials ended their January meeting on Wednesday by pronouncing the job gains as “strong” and growth as “solid,” an unmistakable vote of confidence based on the broader data that has yet to fully translate for many families. Yet that same Fed statement indicated that the central

bank would be patient in raising historically low interest rates that are designed to stimulate growth, a nod to the dire situation confronting many families.

A separate economic scorecard released Thursday reported that 55.6 percent of U.S. consumers have subprime or near-prime credit scores, meaning they must pay a premium to borrow if they qualify at all for traditional loans and credit cards. Roughly 20 percent of households must routinely depend on “fringe financial services” such as payday lenders,

according to the report by the nonprofit Corporation for Enterprise Development. The scorecard evaluated economic opportunity in every state based on 67 different measures drawn from government and industry data.

“There is something to be said about thinking who the economy is improving for,” said Kasey Wiedrich, director of applied research at the nonprofit. Based on updated tax data released this week, the evidence is that the economy has improved for the 1 percent. □

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US settles case against 'revenge porn' site operator

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man accused of operating a "revenge porn" website has settled with U.S. regulators who said he broke the law by posting nude pictures of women without their consent or knowledge.

The FTC says Craig Brittain, ran the website isanybodydown.com, which is no longer operational. Officials say the site worked like this: A man would obtain the images while dating the woman. But upon breaking up, the woman's ex would supply the photos to Brittain, who would post them along with the woman's full name, age, home town, phone number and link to her Facebook profile. The

FTC says Brittain advertised a separate legal service that claimed to be able to take down the photos for a fee of up to \$500.

A phone number tied to Brittain's address in Colorado had been disconnected, and he could not be reached for comment. It's unclear whether Brittain had a lawyer.

The case signals an increased interest by regulators in revenge sites, which have proliferated in recent years in part because of lax laws aimed at protecting free speech on the Internet and preventing website operators from being punished for linking to content they believe is lawful. The case is the first of its kind for the FTC, which has the authority to sue compa-



Elisa D'Amico and David Bateman of K&L Gates, at the nationwide law firm's offices in New York. K&L Gates has launched the Cyber Civil Rights Legal Project to assist victims of so-called revenge porn, suing people who post sexually explicit videos of former partners for violating copyright law and causing emotional distress.

(Jake Naughton/The New York Times)

nies for unfair and deceptive business practices.

"One key factor in this case was the publication not only of victims' intimate images, but also extensive personal identifying and location information, which significantly increased the harm that victims could

face," said Mark Eichorn, assistant director of the division of privacy and identity protection at the FTC. Under the settlement, Brittain is required to delete all of the images and other personal information he received while operating the site. He also is prohib-

ited from publicly sharing intimate videos or photographs of people without their consent.

Brittain won't be required to pay financial restitution. While the agency doesn't have the authority to seek civil penalties, it could demand that Brittain repay any women who paid his bogus legal service in an attempt to erase embarrassing photos.

The FTC won't say publicly why it declined to seek refunds in this case. But it noted that it takes several factors into account when deciding whether to pursue money to pay back victims of a scam, including the person's ability to pay.

"As to other cases, we can't confirm or deny the existence of any other investigations, but this remains an area we're interested in," Eichorn said in an email in response to questions by The Associated Press.

Texas:

Man executed for 1996 beating death

MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A Texas man convicted of killing a 38-year-old woman nearly two decades ago while he was on parole for a triple slaying years earlier was executed Thursday evening.

Robert Ladd, 57, received a lethal injection after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected arguments he was mentally impaired and ineligible for the death penalty. The court also rejected an appeal in which Ladd's attorney challenged whether the pentobarbital Texas uses in executions is potent enough to not cause unconstitutional pain and suffering.

Ladd was executed for the 1996 slaying of 38-year-old Vicki Ann Garner, who was strangled and beaten with a hammer. Her arms and legs were bound, bedding was placed between her legs, and she was set on fire in her apartment.

In his final statement, Ladd addressed the sister of his victim by name, telling her he was "really, really sorry." "I really, really hope and pray you don't have hatred in your heart," he said, adding that he didn't think she could have closure but hoped she could find peace. "A revenge death won't get you anything," he said.

Then Ladd told the warden: "Let's ride."

As the drug took effect, he said: "Stings my arm, man!" He began taking deep breaths, then started snoring. His snores became breaths, each one becoming less pronounced, before he stopped all movement.

He was pronounced dead at 7:02 p.m., 27 minutes after the drug was administered.

Ladd came within hours of lethal injection in 2003 before a federal court agreed to hear evidence about juvenile records that suggested he was mentally impaired. That appeal was denied and the Supreme Court last year turned down a review of Ladd's case.

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Man who stormed Dutch broadcaster claimed to be hacker



19-year-old gunman who stormed into the headquarters of Dutch national broadcaster NOS demanding TV airtime Thursday night Jan. 29, 2015, is shown on video as he waits at the TV station broadcast studio in Hilversum, Netherlands. The man claims to be from a "hackers' collective," according to a reporter who spoke to the man during his raid on the TV station offices, causing NOS to go off-air for around an hour. Police arrived to storm the studio and ordered the man to drop the weapon before detaining him.

(AP Photo / NOS TV)

MIKE CORDER
PETER DEJONG
Associated Press
HILVERSUM, Netherlands

(AP) — A 19-year-old brandishing a fake weapon threatened a security guard to gain access to the headquarters of Dutch national broadcaster NOS and demand airtime Thursday night before police stormed a TV studio to arrest him.

Nobody was injured in the incident, but it forced the NOS off air for around an hour and set nation on edge, coming just weeks after the deadly attack on satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris that left 12 people dead.

When NOS came back on air, it showed recorded footage of the young man, wearing a black suit, white

shirt and black tie, and carrying a pistol with what looked like a silencer attached.

Police said later the gun was a fake and that the man had no criminal record. Detectives were investigating his possible motives. Speaking calmly to someone off-camera, apparently the security guard he had forced to let him into the building, the man said, "We are hired in by intelligence agencies."

Shortly after, police burst in with their guns drawn and ordered the man to drop his weapon and put his hands up. At least five police officers then ordered him to turn around and lie down, which he did and he was arrested without a struggle and taken to a nearby police station for

questioning.

NOS reporter Martijn Bink said he spoke to the man after he was arrested and he claimed to be from a hackers' collective. He didn't elaborate.

Police said in a statement the man demanded airtime and threatened that bombs would go off at several locations around the Netherlands if his demand wasn't met. Special police units evacuated the building and thoroughly searched it but allowed staff back in later in the evening after finding nothing

suspicious.

Prosecutor Johan Bac, who spoke at a news conference in Hilversum, said the man was from the small town of Pijnacker near The Hague. Bac said he was being held on suspicion of making a threat, weapons possession and taking a hostage. The suspect's name wasn't released by the prosecutor.

Officials said they were still investigating the man's background and the seriousness of the threat he posed.

"There is a major investiga-

tion underway to get clarity as quickly as possible about what happened here tonight," Bac said.

There was no immediate indication that the incident was related to Islamic extremism.

NOS director Jan de Jong told the broadcaster that the headquarters had beefed up security in the aftermath of the attack on Charlie Hebdo. The media park in Hilversum, 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of Amsterdam, is home to the NOS and many other Dutch broadcasters. □

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Three Americans are killed in Kabul airport shooting

JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN

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KABUL, Afghanistan - Three U.S. military contractors were killed in a shooting on the military side of Kabul's international airport Thursday, military officials said. The precise circumstances of the shooting, which occurred around 6:40 p.m., were murky. The gunman was killed as well, officials said. The motive of the at-

tack was not immediately clear, nor was the identity of the killer, whom officials described only as an Afghan man.

Some news reports said the attacker was an Afghan soldier, or was wearing a security forces uniform. Officials would not confirm those reports, which suggested the attack may have been a new eruption of "green on blue" or in-

sider killings, in which members of the Afghan security forces have turned on their Western allies.

Insider killings became so worrisome in recent years that many security rules for shared bases and training missions were tightened. But such attacks ebbed as U.S. troops withdrew from front-line posts, or from the country altogether, over the past year.

It was not the first time an attack targeting the Western troop presence had occurred on the military side of the airport, where much of the Afghan air force is based.

Nearly four years ago, an Afghan air force colonel shot and killed eight U.S. service members and a contractor before killing himself.

Early Friday, a spokesman

for the U.S.-led military coalition in Afghanistan, Col. Brian Tribus, said in a statement that "three coalition contractors were killed, as was an Afghan local national."

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the investigation, said that the three victims were American and that the attacker, an Afghan, had been killed. □

Jordan lets deadline pass for hostage-militant exchange

ROD NORDLAND

RANYA KADRI

© 2015 New York Times

AMMAN, Jordan - Jordan refused to release an imprisoned female militant on Thursday to meet a deadline set by the Islamic State, demanding that it first needed proof that a captured Jordanian pilot was still alive.

The impasse provoked fears that the extremists would carry out their threats to kill the pilot and a Japanese journalist they were also holding hostage. Jordan said it had been prepared to meet the Is-

lamic State's demand to free the imprisoned militant,

Sajida al-Rishawi, and deliver her to the Syrian-Turkish border by sunset on Thursday.

"Rishawi is still in Jordan, and the exchange will happen once we receive the proof of life we ask for," Agence France-Presse quoted the minister of state for media affairs, Mohammed Al-Momani, as saying shortly before the deadline expired.

The standoff followed several tense days of demands and counterdemands, as



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, second right, speaks during a hurriedly held ministerial meeting on Japanese hostage Kenji Goto taken by the Islamic State group, at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015.

(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

well as the apparent beheading of another Japanese hostage.

On Saturday, a video released by the militants said they would exchange the remaining Japanese hostage, Kenji Goto, for al-Rishawi.

On Tuesday, another video attributed to the Islamic State suddenly drew the pilot's fate into the equation, saying that if its demands were not met,

it would kill not only Goto, but also the pilot, 1st Lt. Moaz al-Kasasbeh, whose captivity has riveted Jordan for weeks. □

Greece on board with EU's sanctions policy against Russia

ANDREW HIGGINS

© 2015 New York Times

BRUSSELS - Gathering in Brussels, European foreign ministers scrambled Thursday to hold a united front against Russia over Ukraine, calming worries that the election of a far-left government in Greece hostile to sanctions could upend Europe's policy toward Moscow.

This week's victory of the anti-establishment Syriza party in Greece had been widely seen as giving a big boost to dogged but previously unsuccessful efforts

by Russia to drive a wedge between members of the European Union and undermine the bloc's sanctions policy.

In the end, however, Greece backed away from strong statements denouncing sanctions and joined other countries in the 28-member bloc in a unanimous vote in favor of expanding a list of sanctioned individuals, mostly Russians, and of work to prepare "any further action" to pressure combatants to respect a stillborn truce agreement from last

year.

Greece also joined other countries in endorsing a six-month extension of sanctions imposed last March that would otherwise have expired this March.

The acquiescence of Greece's new leftist government was greeted optimistically as a sign that, despite the tough words issued from Greek officials in recent days, Athens would continue to work with its EU partners, including, perhaps, on its debt obligations. The Greeks "deleted a few words, but that is not

a big deal," Linas A. Linkevicius, the foreign minister of Lithuania, said in an interview. He said the gathering of foreign ministers had been far less contentious than expected, as the Greeks had been "forced to change their stubborn position" and muted their hostility to extending sanctions over Ukraine.

Federica Mogherini, the EU's foreign policy chief, said at a news conference that while "sticking to their position, their attitude was extremely constructive." The unanimous vote, she

said, showed that "one thing I can be happy about tonight is that we kept our unity."

Mogherini called the emergency meeting of foreign ministers in response to a rocket attack by Russian-backed rebels Sunday that killed as many as 30 civilians in the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol. That day, Greek voters gave an emphatic victory to Syriza, a party that has a long history of close relations with Russia and hostility to the European Union's policy on Ukraine. □

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Gas blast wrecks Mexico children's hospital, at least 2 dead

ALBERTO ARCE

PETER ORSI

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Injured and bleeding, mothers carrying infants fled from a maternity hospital shattered by a powerful gas explosion Thursday, and rescuers swung sledgehammers to break through fallen concrete hunting for others who might be trapped.

At least two people were killed and more than 60 injured, Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said at a news conference. The known dead were a woman and a child. Officials earlier said at least four people had been

killed.

About 75 percent of the hospital collapsed, officials said, and the priority was to continue digging in search of any trapped survivors. Authorities said they had confirmed that none of the children registered in the hospital were missing, but said it was possible that others who had come for appointments could be trapped.

The city's health secretary, Armando Ahued, said the adult victim was a 25-year-old woman and the child was a newborn, between 2 and 3 weeks old. He said 21 babies were injured, and seven of those and seven



Rescue workers stand before the rubble of a children's hospital where a gas truck exploded, in Cuajimalpa on the outskirts of Mexico City, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015. The powerful explosion shattered the hospital on the western edge of Mexico's capital, killing at least three adults and one baby and injuring dozens. (AP Photo)

adults were in serious condition after being rushed to other hospitals.

Thirty-five-year-old Felicitas Hernandez wept as she frantically questioned people outside the wrecked building, hoping for word of her month-old baby, who had been hospitalized since birth with respiratory problems.

"They wouldn't let me sleep with him," said Hernandez, who had come to the city-run Maternity and Children's Hospital of Cuajimalpa because she had no money. □

Aruba: small plane crashes during Venezuelan pursuit

ORANJESTAD, Aruba (AP)

— A small civilian plane was being pursued by the Venezuelan military over the Caribbean Sea when it crashed in a fiery ball Thursday, the government of Aruba said.

Two Venezuelan military aircraft were chasing the plane over the South American country's airspace, but the cause of the crash was unknown, Arthur Dowers, the justice minister of Aruba, told reporters.

"There are rumors that the military planes shot on the small craft, but that information has not been confirmed," Dowers said.

In the past, Venezuela has shot down suspected drug-trafficking planes, mostly over the western portion of the country. There was no

immediate comment from Venezuelan officials about Thursday's incident.

Coast Guard and maritime police units near where the plane went down in Aruban waters have spotted debris, but the number of casualties was not known, Dowers said.

He said the rescue team also spotted "packages" on the scene, but officials had not determined what they contained.

The Aruban government is in contact with the government of Venezuela as well as officials in the Netherlands, which handles foreign policy issues for the Dutch Caribbean island.

Aruba is an island in the southern Caribbean that is one of the countries that make up the Kingdom of the Netherlands. □

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Venezuela: Strict rationing continues as oil prices plunge

WILLIAM NEUMAN

© 2015 New York Times

CARACAS, Venezuela

Mary Noriega heard there would be chicken.

She hated being herded "like cattle," she said, standing for hours in a line of more than 1,500 people hoping to buy food, as soldiers with side arms checked identification cards to make sure no one tried to buy basic items more than once or twice a week. But Noriega, a laboratory assistant with three children, said she had no choice, ticking off the inventory in her depleted refrigerator: coffee and corn flour. Things had gotten so bad, she said, that she had begun bartering with neighbors to put food on the table.

"We always knew that this year would start badly, but I think this is super bad," Noriega said.

Venezuelans have put up with shortages and long lines for years. But as the price of oil, the country's main export, has plunged, the situation has grown so dire that the government has sent troops to patrol huge lines snaking for blocks. Some states have barred people from waiting outside stores overnight, and government officials are posted near entrances, ready to arrest shoppers who cheat the rationing system.

Because Venezuela is so dependent on oil sales to buy imports of food, medicine and many other basics, the drop in oil prices means that there is even less hard currency to buy what the country needs.

Even before oil prices tumbled, Venezuela was in the throes of a deep recession, with one of the world's highest inflation rates and chronic shortages of basic items.

One of the nation's most prestigious public hospitals shut down its heart surgery unit for weeks because of shortages of medical supplies. Some drugs have been out of stock for months; diapers are so

coveted that some shoppers carry the birth certificates of their children in case stores demand them; and at least one clinic performed heart operations

"I've always been a Chavista," said Noriega, using a term for a loyal Chávez supporter. But "the other day, I found a Chávez T-shirt I'd kept, and I threw it on the

nations to cut production and push the price back up.

"We have serious economic difficulties regarding the country's revenue," Mad-



National Guard soldiers stand by to ensure order as people buy difficult to find items, like sugar, cooking oil, milk, rice, toilet paper and baby diapers at subsidized prices during a government organized event in Caracas, Venezuela, Jan. 24, 2015. Venezuelans have put up with shortages and long lines for years, but as the price of oil, the country's main export, has plunged, the situation has grown dire.

(Meridith Kohut/The New York Times)

only by smuggling in a vital drug from the United States. Now economists predict that shortages will get even more acute and inflation, already 64 percent, will climb further. The price of Venezuelan oil dropped this month to \$38 a barrel, down from \$96 in September.

"Things are going to be even worse because oil keeps Venezuela going," said Luis Castro, 42, a nurse, standing in line with hundreds of others at a grocery store. He had arrived with his wife and 6-year-old son at 6 a.m., but by 11:30 a.m., they had still not entered. "We're getting used to standing on line," he said, "and when you get used to something, they give you only crumbs."

The shortages and inflation present another round of political challenges for President Nicolás Maduro, who has vowed to continue the socialist-inspired revolution begun by his predecessor, the charismatic leftist Hugo Chávez.

ground and stamped on it, and then I used it to clean the floor. I was so angry. I don't know if this is his fault or not, but he died and left us here, and things have been going from bad to worse."

Venezuela has the world's largest estimated petroleum reserves, and when oil prices were high, oil exports made up more than 95 percent of its hard currency income. Chávez used the oil riches to fund social spending, like increased pensions and subsidized grocery stores. Now that income has been slashed.

"If things are so bad now, I really cannot imagine how they will be in February or March" when current oil prices "materialize in terms of cash flow," said Francisco J. Monaldi, a professor of energy policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Maduro spent 14 straight days in January traveling the globe in an effort to court investment and persuade other oil-producing

uro said to the legislature during his annual address, which had to be pushed back because of the trip. "But God will always be with us. God will provide. And we will get, and we have gotten, the resources to maintain the country's rhythm."

After months of toying with the politically taboo idea of raising the price of gasoline sold at pumps here, the cheapest in the world, he said that the time had finally come to do so.

And he reiterated his position that the country's economic ills are the fault of an economic war being waged against his government by right-wing enemies.

Many economists argue that government policies are a big part of the problem, including a highly overvalued currency, price controls that dissuade manufacturers and farmers, and government restrictions on access to dollars that have led to a steep drop in imports. □

Venezuelan general appears in NY after 11 months in hiding

CLAUDIA TORRENS

Associated Press

NEW YORK/CARACAS (AP)

— A dissident Venezuelan general who has been in hiding for nearly a year emerged Thursday for a public appearance in New York.

Retired Brig. Gen. Antonio Rivero has been on the run since President Nicolas Maduro ordered his arrest last spring, accusing him of training "fascists" to foment unrest during street protests that rocked the socialist South American country.

On Thursday, Rivero spoke to journalists outside the United Nations in his first public appearance in 11 months. He said he had not seen his family in a year, and had been living in "difficult conditions." He traveled to New York to ask the world body fight for his cause. He said the U.N.'s Working Committee on Arbitrary Detentions spoke out in his behalf in 2013 when he was jailed briefly on charges of inciting unrest after the country's disputed presidential election. Now, he is asking them to again tell Maduro to stop persecuting him.

"I support all of the international bodies that are trying to show the crisis that continues in the country, especially the human rights violations, which have been a cornerstone of this regime's strategy to stifle dissent," he said.

Rivero was once the Venezuelan government's emergency management director, but he grew concerned about what he viewed as a growing Cuban influence in the military and retired early in 2010 in protest over that and other issues. He became a fierce critic of the government and in early 2014 he supported a wave of street protests that resulted in more than 40 deaths.

On Thursday, Rivero declined to explain how he had managed to leave Venezuela, but said he would continue to speak out against the government. □



While Travelling to the US:

Local Musician Inspires Americans to Visit Aruba!

ORANJESTAD - Popular local musician Richard Verge who entertains on the island under the moniker "Ricky Thomas" recently traveled to New Jersey in the United States to attend a book release party and a reunion with his bandmates. Ricky and his old band, the "Badlands Band", rocked the crowds in two performances across the state. The first sold out show was held on a Friday night in the northern New Jersey town of Bergenfield where the Badlands Band was a popular draw at the now defunct "Circus Circus Rock Club". Ricky and the Badlands Band entertained weekly during the early 1980's at the Circus Circus Rock Club, drawing thousands of fans to their performances. The reunion was held in conjunction

with the release of a book detailing the glory days of the once popular northern New Jersey club. The following afternoon Ricky and Badlands performed at the popular Jenkinson's on the Boardwalk in Point Pleasant New Jersey. The band repeated their crowd pleasing performances of their original and Southern and Country Rock standards to another sold out crowd. Ricky was the object of much interest and attention at the events, as he lives and entertains on the One Happy Island of Aruba. Prior to attending the reunion, Ricky contacted Sjeidy Feliciano from ATA to see if he could bring some Aruba souvenirs to the reunion to give away to the fans. Sjeidy and ATA were only too happy to oblige,



and Ricky bought handfuls of Aruba giveaway items to the event. Ricky invited all in attendance to come and visit Aruba, even hinting with the crowd that if possible the next band reunion would be held in our warm tropical climate. Ricky made many new friends at the event and renewed old friendships as well. Pictured with Ricky in New Jersey and at the Renaissance Ocean Suites recently is Ricky's new

friend Jeffrey Isaacs from New Brunswick, New Jersey. Even though Jeffrey and his wife Brenda are no strangers to Aruba's beautiful shores they never visited ZeeRover's Restaurant or the beautiful beach located at MangelHalto. Ricky and his wife Marlene took this opportunity to serve as tour guides for Jeffrey and his wife, showing them these new treats! Ricky also renewed an old friendship with Vinnie

Marchetti, from Freehold New Jersey. After not seeing each other for 20 plus years, Ricky invited Vinnie and family to visit him on the shores of our One Happy Island. Pictured at the Pure Beach Restaurant at the Divi Phoenix are Ricky along with Vinnie Marchetti and his beautiful family. Ricky is even more excited for the coming months because the list of old and new friends visiting Aruba is getting bigger and bigger! Ricky said: "I love my island home, and acting as an ambassador for Aruba is easy because Aruba is a sparkling gem of an island set in the tranquil waters of the Caribbean. Who would not want to come to these beautiful shores"? You can see Ricky perform in his bluesy Caribbean style at several of the island's top hotels. Every week Ricky performs at the Costa Linda Beach Resort, the Divi Phoenix, the Divi. Tamarijn and the Renaissance Ocean Suites. Richard Verge:rjv.019@gmail.com
FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/rickythomasaruba>
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TGI Fridays Introduces New 'Taste of Miami Beach' Menu



PALM BEACH - TGI Fridays unveiled their hot new Special Menu selections to members of the press recently, the aptly-titled "A Taste of Miami Beach" Menu. Tony Bonilla, General Manager of TGI Fridays

to their already awesome regular menu. Kitchen Manager Luis Gonzalez took the press on a tasty tour through the exciting new menu, starting with the sweet and spicy Beef Pineapple Habanero

& Shrimp, the Caribbean Sirloin & Jerked Jumbo Shrimp, the Caribbean Seafood & Chicken Rice, and the Sizzling Chimichuri Chicken. A decadent new Miami-style desert was enjoyed to cap off the event.



TGI Fridays recommends complimenting the special new "A Taste of Miami Beach" menu with a Fridays Mojito, certain to transport you to the spicy-hot ambiance of Miami Beach. TGI Fridays Aruba is situated at the Paseo Herencia Mall, opening at 12-noon, 7 days a week! Check out additional photos of the event on Facebook! □



Aruba announced that for the next 3 months, the exciting and delicious new dishes will be available for guests to enjoy in addition

Quesadilla appetizers. The four new delicious Miami Beach-themed entrees were unveiled next, including the Coconut Chicken





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Sidebar is the newest restaurant on Aruba, and oh boy, it is a beauty! Unique in a trendy, sassy and sexy way, it is ready to welcome all of you.



Common ground and denominating factor of the guests includes the enjoyment of life, in particular the good things, such as great bistro food, wonderful drinks and a relaxed, happy atmosphere. Sidebar is the name of a stylish, hip restaurant on the side of the Renaissance Marketplace; just hop inside, sit at the bar or on the amazing porch and enjoy – the party at Sidebar starts at 8 am and goes on until midnight.

At Sidebar you can sit in a booth, on a lounge chair, on a bar stool or stand at a cocktail table. Side Bar is all about options, so go and check it out on the far end corner of the Renaissance Marketplace.

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Mrs. Joan Novak Honored as an Emerald Ambassador to Aruba!



PALM BEACH - Darline S. de Cuba had the great pleasure this week to honor a loyal and friendly visitor of Aruba as an Emerald Ambassador! The Aruba Tourism Author-

ity proudly presented a commemorative Emerald Coin and Emerald Certificate to Mrs. Joan Novak of Vernon, New Jersey in honor of her 35 years of continued and consecutive visits



to our island! The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture, Mr. Otmar Oduber as a token of

appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba for 35-or-more consecutive years! The top reasons for returning provided by Mrs. Novak are that she considers Aruba to be the "Happy

Island," and she loves our great weather and friendly Aruban hospitality! Congratulation Mrs. Joan Novak you hold a special place in the hearts of Arubans! □

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Garciano Family Honored by Aruba Tourism Authority



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Paradise Beach

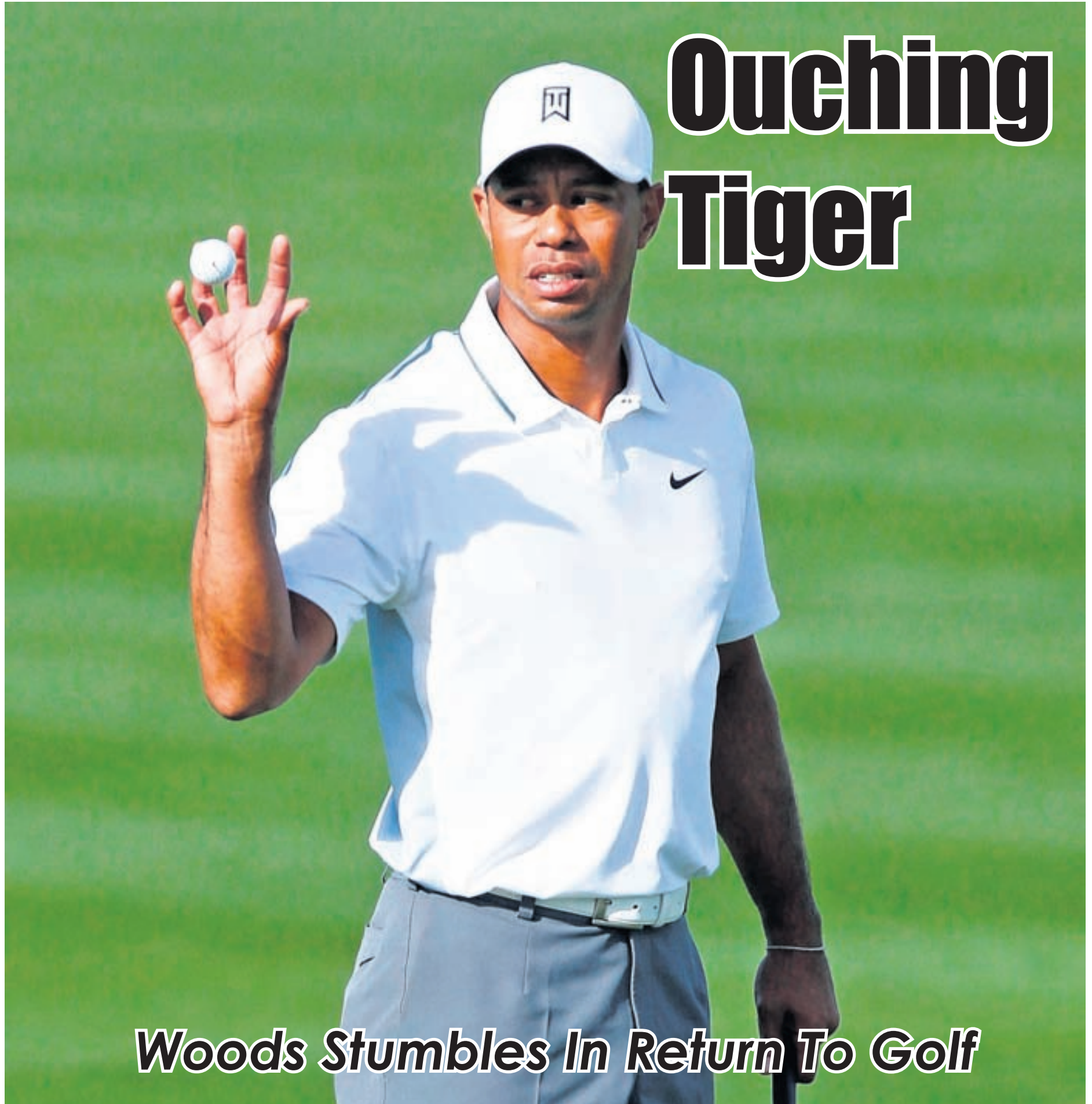
Villas, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more

consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Tony and Mrs. Kathryn Garciano. Tony and Kathryn love Aruba very much because of the great extremely friendly people, the climate,



beaches, restaurants, and because Aruba is like a second home for them. The certificate was presented by Ms. Darline S. de

Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority, along with Mr. Reginald Amaya representing Paradise Beach Villas.



Ouching Tiger

Woods Stumbles In Return To Golf

Tiger Woods catches his golf ball on the ninth green during the pro-am for the Phoenix Open at TPC Scottsdale, Wednesday Jan. 28, 2015, in Scottsdale, Ariz. (AP Photo/Rob Schumacher)

Psge 19

Williams Reaches Aussie Final; Aims For 19th Major

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Williams aims for 19th major after reaching Aussie final

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— It wasn't until Serena Williams forced herself to relax, and not focus too intently on a milestone Grand Slam title, that she rediscovered the art of winning the biggest events in tennis.

Now she's on the verge of a 19th major championship after beating 19-year-old Madison Keys 7-6 (5), 6-2 on Thursday and setting up an Australian Open final against long-time rival Maria Sharapova.

Williams has won all five Australian Open finals she has contested and won her last 15 matches against No. 2-ranked Sharapova, a five-time major winner who will be playing her fourth final at Melbourne Park.

While the 33-year-old Williams is peerless among active players, there was a period last year when she wanted so desperately to win her 18th major that it proved too

distracting. After winning the U.S. Open in 2013, she lost in the fourth round at the Australian Open, the second round at the French and the third round at Wimbledon.

"I was so hyped on getting to 18 and I lost every Grand Slam early. I didn't make it to any quarterfinals," Williams said. "Then after Wimbledon I decided to just — not necessarily not care — but just relax. It all kind of came back for me after that ... and I think it's been working."

That approach helped her win the U.S. Open and, if it works again on Saturday against 2008 champion Sharapova, it will help Williams move above Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova on the list of major winners. She would be behind only Steffi Graf, with 22 titles, among champions in the Open era.

The statistics point to another win for Williams, but she's not getting ahead of herself. "Again, I have to win. Every-

one's expecting me to win. But we'll see," Williams said. "She's playing unbelievable. She was almost out of the tournament and has been playing better every single



Serena Williams of the U.S. makes a backhand return to her compatriot Madison Keys during their semifinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015.

Associated Press

match. It's impressive." Williams, who has struggled with a cold for a week, said she'd benefit from a tough workout in the all-American semifinal against Keys, who pounded her with heavy groundstrokes and a big

serve for the first set.

Keys, playing in her first Grand Slam semifinal, saved seven match points on serve in a penultimate game that lasted more than 11 minutes.

had like nine or 10 match points and couldn't close it out. That doesn't happen so much. She played like she didn't have anything to lose."

Sharapova, who beat No. 10-seeded Ekaterina Makarova 6-3, 6-2 in an all-Russian semifinal, has won only two of her 18 career meetings with Williams — both in 2004. She started 2015 with a title at the Brisbane International and, ever since saving two match points in her second-round match against Russian qualifier Alexandra Panova, has been growing in confidence.

"I think my confidence should be pretty high going into a final of a Grand Slam no matter who I'm facing and whether I've had a terrible record, to say the least, against someone," Sharapova said. "It doesn't matter. I got there for a reason. I belong in that spot. I will do everything I can to get the title." □

Lynch gives most extensive answers of Super Bowl week

ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

PHOENIX (AP)

— Marshawn Lynch changed the script and fired back at his critics. After two days of giving only scripted answers, the Seattle Seahawks' star running back gave his most extensive comments of Super Bowl week, mostly telling reporters why he won't talk to them.

"I don't know what story y'all trying to get out of me. I don't know what image y'all trying to portray of me," Lynch said on Thursday. "But it don't matter what y'all think, what y'all say about me because when I go home at night, the same people that I look in the face — my family that I love — that's all that really matter to me. So y'all can



Seattle Seahawks' Marshawn Lynch adjusts his cap during an interview for the NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015, in Phoenix.

(AP Photo/Matt York)

go make up whatever y'all want to make up because I don't say enough for y'all to go and put anything out on me."

Lynch, who spurned reporters' efforts to get him to talk

at mandatory news conferences on Tuesday and Wednesday, seemed frustrated that they were still trying.

"I'm here preparing for a game. And y'all want to

ask me these questions, which is understandable. I could get down with that. But I told y'all. I'm not about to say nothing. ... All of my requirements are fulfilled."

Lynch praised his teammates, his hometown of Oakland, California, and his Family First Foundation. When asked who the best player on the Seahawks was, he said: "All of them." As he has all week, Lynch stayed five minutes before leaving.

At Media Day on Tuesday, Lynch repeated: "I'm just here so I don't get fined" while talking to reporters. On Wednesday, he replied to all questions with: "You know why I'm here."

Lynch has a history of avoiding reporters. In November, the NFL fined him

\$50,000 for violations of the league's media policy in addition to collecting the \$50,000 fine that was imposed against him for violations last season. The fine from 2013 was held in anticipation of future cooperation from Lynch.

The Professional Football Writers of America complained to the league about Tuesday's session, and Lynch had been apprised of a potential fine. A league spokesman declined comment.

Lynch again wore a "Beast Mode" baseball cap and told everyone where they could buy one. The two hats he already wore this week have sold out on Lynch's website, where they're part of his Beast Mode apparel line. □

Woods Stumbles In Return To Golf

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) —

The focus on Tiger Woods at the Phoenix open shifted Thursday from a chipped tooth to his chipping.

Woods struggled mightily with his short game again, and it didn't help that he only hit three greens in regulation on the front nine. He made three bogeys and a double bogey and made the turn in 4-over 39.

In his 2015 debut, Woods already was 10 shots behind early leader Keegan Bradley, who had a 6-under 65. Woods is playing for only the second time since he missed the cut at the PGA Championship last August. He brought in a new swing consultant during his time off to heal from back injuries, and expectations were lower than usual for a player who has won 79 times on the PGA Tour.

In his first trip to the Waste Management Phoenix Open since 2001, playing before the most energetic crowd at an American golf tournament since the PGA Championship, Woods created more groans than cheers — particularly off the green.

Just over a week ago, Woods was photographed in Italy at a World Cup ski race with a missing tooth from what he said was a camera inadvertently hitting him in the mouth. The chipped and crack teeth were easy to replace. His chipping might be a different story. Woods also duffed a number of chips at the Hero World Challenge in December at Isleworth, the course he knows better than any other in the world. Not much changed two months later.

Woods didn't hit his chip with a mid-iron hard enough from short of the first green and left it 10 feet short. He sent a routine chip on the second hole some 15 feet by the cup. And on the next hole, the par-5 third hole, Woods was tentative with a flop shot out of the rough and didn't reach the green. Another chip on the par-3 fourth didn't

reach the green, and he three-putted from 20 feet on the fringe.

The worst of it was at No. 9. His ball was just outside a bunker, and Woods had to play an exaggerated hook with his feet in the sand, and he lost his balance. At least his back looked to be healthy. The ball came up short of the green, and Woods bladed a chip that ran over the back of the green.

Instead of chipping to a close pin, he opted to putt up the slope. It was the second time on the front nine that Woods used a putter instead of chipping. It wasn't a bad option, but using a putter once was a rare option for Woods.

The crowd was enormous, as expected, with Woods playing the rowdiest event on the PGA Tour for the first time in 14 years. Bradley didn't get much attention as he motored around TPC Scottsdale with seven birdies for the lead among the early starters.

"I hit a shot in on my last hole to about 10 feet, and it was a pretty good shot, and I didn't get many claps," Bradley said.

He turned to his caddie and asked if it was over the green, or well short. He couldn't figure out why there was hardly any applause.

"We get up there — perfect shot. And Tiger was on the second green. No one was watching me," he said. "It's just amazing to see the draw that Tiger has."

Zach Johnson was among four players at 66, while Angel Cabrera and Justin Leonard were in the group at 67.

Phil Mickelson, a three-time winner at the Phoenix Open, also got off to a bad start. He put two balls in the water on the par-5 15th and made double bogey and was 3 over through his opening seven holes. But he drove to the front of the green on the short par-4 17th and converted that into a birdie, and he picked up four more birdies to salvage a respectable 69. □



Rickie Fowler tees off on the 17th hole during the first round of the Phoenix Open golf tournament, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

(AP Photo/Rick Scuteri)

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NBA Capsules

Hawks pull away for 17th straight victory

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Paul Millsap had 28 points and 15 rebounds, five other Atlanta players scored in double figures, and the Hawks stretched their franchise-record winning streak to 17

missed 3-pointer by Portland's Damian Lillard, and as many in the crowd chanted "M-V-P" and James danced near the bench, Irving dropped two free throws with 2.1 seconds remaining to seal the win.



Atlanta Hawks guard Kyle Korver (26) celebrates a 3-point shot against the Brooklyn Nets during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday Jan. 28, 2015, in Atlanta. Atlanta won 113-102.
Associated Press

games in a row with a 113-102 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday night. Atlanta (38-8) has won 31 of 33 and leads the Eastern Conference by a commanding seven games. This was a bit tougher than expected against the struggling Nets, who kept it close most of the way.

The Hawks pulled away in the final quarter, leading by as many as 15. Millsap finished off Brooklyn's last run with a 3-pointer from the corner with 2:34 remaining, pushing Atlanta to a 109-98 edge.

Joe Johnson led the Nets with 26 points. It wasn't enough to prevent Brooklyn's 11th loss in 13 games, a slide that has knocked the team out of the top eight in the Eastern Conference.

CAVALIERS 99, BLAZERS 94

CLEVELAND (AP) — Kyrie Irving scored a career-high 55 points, breaking the arena record while LeBron James watched from the bench and leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to their eighth straight win.

Irving took over with James sidelined with a sprained right wrist. He buried a 3-pointer with 6.4 seconds left to break a 94-94 tie, grabbed a rebound off a

Irving broke the previous scoring record at Quicken Loans Arena held by Allen Iverson. His point total was also the highest in the league this season, bettering the 52 scored by Golden State's Klay Thompson and Minnesota's Mo Williams. Irving made a team-record 11 3-pointers and finished 10 of 10 from the free-throw line.

LaMarcus Aldridge, playing his second game since deciding to delay thumb surgery until after the season, scored 38 to lead the Trail Blazers, who have dropped six of seven.

76ERS 89, PISTONS 69

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Robert Covington scored 19 points, Michael Carter-Williams had 14 points and 10 assists, and the Philadelphia 76ers snapped a six-game losing streak.

JaKarr Sampson had 13 points and Luc Mbah a Moute added 12 for the Sixers (9-37). Carter-Williams, back after missing the Sixers' last game due to an upper respiratory infection, finished one rebound shy of a triple-double.

Greg Monroe led the Pistons (17-30) with 20 points, and Jodie Meeks scored 19 off the bench. Detroit shot just

2 of 20 from 3-point range in a matchup of slumping squads missing their top scorers. The Pistons have lost four straight, and three since leading scorer Brandon Jennings ruptured his left Achilles in a 101-86 loss to Milwaukee on Saturday.

RAPTORS 119, KINGS 102

TORONTO (AP) — Lou Williams scored 27 points and the Toronto Raptors made a season-high 17 3-pointers in a victory over the slumping Sacramento Kings.

Greivis Vasquez scored 18 and Jonas Valanciunas had 15 for the Raptors, who won their fourth straight. It's Toronto's longest streak since a six-game run in December.

Rudy Gay scored 22 points, Ben McLemore had 17 and DeMarcus Cousins, 13, for the Kings, whose season-long losing streak reached seven games. Forward Carl Landry returned after missing the previous five games with a sprained right wrist and finished with 14 points.

SPURS 95, HORNETS 86

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Parker scored 17 points and the San Antonio Spurs overcame another lethargic third quarter to beat the Charlotte Hornets.

Danny Green had 16 points and Tim Duncan added 12 points and 14 rebounds as San Antonio won its sixth straight at home.

Gerald Henderson scored 18 points, Al Jefferson had 17 points and 16 rebounds and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist added 14 points for Charlotte. The Hornets were without star guard Kemba Walker, who will be out at least six weeks following surgery on his left knee.

NUGGETS 93, PELICANS 85

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Aaron Afflalo scored 18 points and the Denver Nuggets snapped a seven-game losing streak. Afflalo hit four 3-pointers, the last with 2:32 left to increase Denver's then-tenuous lead to 89-85. After that, the Pelicans were unable to score another point and saw their four-game winning streak end. □

NHL Capsules:

Ovechkin nets 2; Caps end skid

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored twice to take the NHL lead in goals, Braden Holtby recovered from a mini-slump to get his fifth shutout of the season, and Sidney Crosby had one of his worst faceoff nights as the Washington Capitals broke a four-game losing streak with a 4-0 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday. Ovechkin had a tip-in goal in the first period and then scored during a power play in the second. His 29 goals are one more than Rick Nash and Tyler Seguin. Eric Fehr and Mike Green scored in the third. Holtby, who had allowed four goals in each of his last three starts, stopped 27 shots to blank the Penguins for the second time in a little over a month. Pittsburgh hasn't scored on Washington in 120 minutes this season.

DEVILS 2, LEAFS 1, SO

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Jacob Josefson and Patrik Elias scored in the shootout and New Jersey rallied late to extend Toronto's losing streak to a season-high seven games.

Cory Schneider made 29 saves through overtime and handled both Toronto shootout attempts as the Devils won for the fifth time in eight games (5-2-1). Defenseman Adam Larsson scored the tying goal with 2:50 left in regulation.

James van Riemsdyk scored on a breakaway in the third period, and Jonathan Bernier made 22 saves in Toronto's loss.

Bernier made a pad save on Scott Gomez on the Devils' first shootout attempt, but Josefson and Elias beat him with backhanders on the next two tries.

Mike Santorelli missed the



Chicago Blackhawks left wing Brandon Saad, top, collides with Los Angeles Kings goalie Jonathan Quick during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015, in Los Angeles.
Associated Press

Crosby received an injection last week to treat a lower-body injury that caused him to miss one game as well as the NHL All-Star game, and he wasn't the usual Sid.

He lost 15 of his first 18 faceoffs and lost 17 of 24 for the game. The Penguins also played their third straight without Evgeni Malkin, who also has a lower-body injury. Pittsburgh has lost five of six.

net on Toronto's first attempt, and Schneider stopped Tyler Bozak on the second.

KINGS 4, HAWKS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jake Muzzin scored the tiebreaking goal with 3:37 to play, Jeff Carter had two goals and an assist, and Los Angeles roared back in the final minutes to snap its four-game losing streak with a victory over Chicago. □

Kobe Bryant has surgery, expected to be out for 9 months

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO, California

(AP) — Kobe Bryant's season is officially over after having surgery to repair his torn right rotator cuff Wednesday.

The Los Angeles Lakers also made it official that their superstar doesn't believe his career is finished.

Bryant is expected to need nine months to recover from his third straight season-ending injury. If Bryant meets that timetable, he could return to basketball shortly before the start of the 2015-16 season — and the Lakers expect to see him in purple and gold again.

Neal ElAttrache and Steve Lombardo performed the two-hour surgery at the Kerlan Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic in Los Angeles.

"I expect Kobe to make a full recovery, and if all goes as expected, he should be ready for the start of the season," ElAttrache said in a statement provided by the Lakers.

The Lakers formally declared Bryant out for the year by acknowledging the expected recovery time from his injury, but also effectively confirmed



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) drives with the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans. (Associated Press)

he won't retire and will attempt to play his 20th season in the fall. Bryant, who will be 37 years old this sum-

mer, is the NBA's highest-paid player at \$23.5 million this season, and he is under contract for \$25 million next

year.

"In my mind right now, he's coming back next year, unless he tells me something different," coach Byron Scott said at practice Wednesday.

Scott already had acknowledged Bryant was highly unlikely to play again this season for the flailing Lakers (12-34), who will match their franchise record for futility if they lose their 10th consecutive game when

the Chicago Bulls visit Thursday. But if Los Angeles finishes with a top-five draft pick, the club won't have to give its first-round choice to Phoenix until next year to complete its brutal trade for Steve Nash in 2012.

Bryant hurt his right shoulder while dunking last week in New Orleans, deciding on surgery shortly afterward. He is the third-leading scorer in league history and a five-time NBA champion.

Farewell, Padres!

Omar Minaya joins union as adviser

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Omar Minaya is switching sides.

The former New York Mets general manager left his job as senior vice president of the San Diego Padres on Thursday to become a special adviser to Major League Baseball Players Association head Tony Clark.

Born in the Dominican Republic, Minaya started in baseball management as a scout for the Texas Rangers, where he helped sign Sammy Sosa. He became the major leagues' first Hispanic general manager with the Montreal Expos from 2002 to 2004.

He left the Expos to become GM of his hometown Mets, who fired him after

the 2010 season. He was hired by the Padres in December 2011 as senior VP of baseball operations under GM Josh Byrnes, who was fired last June.

"Our membership that comes from the Latin countries is growing," Clark said. "That means having folks on staff that are reflective of those countries, that have the ability to communicate with players in their native language."

Minaya will focus on international affairs and game development in the U.S., including amateur ball. The number of Dominican and Cuban players in the major leagues has increased, and management hopes to get agreement on an international draft in the collective bargaining agree-

ment that expires after the 2016 season.

Currently, only players residing in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico are subject to a draft.

"These are going to be major issues as the game goes forward," Minaya said.

He is following the path of Hall of Famer Dave Winfield, who left his job as executive vice president/senior adviser of the Padres after a dozen years in December 2013 to become a special assistant to Clark at the Major League Baseball Players Association.

"It probably hasn't happened very often," said Clark, the former All-Star first baseman who took over as union chief after Michael Weiner's death in November 2013.

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ANGEL OF DEATH
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FRI-SAT 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 9:35

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Super Bowl Extra

Pepsi's Super Bowl advertising blitz aims for big payoff



A Pepsi logo-shaped crop circle created near the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz., site of the upcoming Super Bowl XLIX. Pepsi has engineered a number of such stunts leading up to the game — illustrating the extremes sponsorship are taking to get the biggest payoff for their advertising dollar.

(Handout via The New York Times)

EMILY STEEL

© 2015 New York Times

A giant crop circle appeared in fields around Phoenix this week, the first in a series of strange desert sightings expected in Arizona in the days leading up to Sunday's Super Bowl.

The extraterrestriallike cultivation is not a signal from aliens who have taken a sudden interest in football. The stunts are the

work of Pepsi, which is attempting to make a giant splash with a multifaceted, monthslong Super Bowl campaign that culminates on Sunday with a 30-second game-day spot and its sponsorship of Katy Perry's halftime show.

"If you want to be part of pop culture, then you have to be part of the biggest event in the country," said Simon Lowden, Pepsi's

chief marketing officer for North American beverages. "If you want to be part of the conversation, you have to be there in as big a way as possible."

The strategy illustrates the extremes that marketers are going to in an attempt to get the biggest payoff from the \$4.5 million they spend for 30 seconds of commercial time during the big game.

The spotlight used to be solely on those ads.

But the Web has transformed the marketing game plan: Advertisers now increasingly extend the process, trying to build viewership for the commercials in stages, by posting the spots and teasers for them online before the game, as well as creating social media campaigns around them.

Over the years, Super Bowl marketing has evolved into a year-round exercise, especially for the biggest spenders, like Anheuser-Busch and PepsiCo, which owns Pepsi and Doritos, which also advertises during the game.

PepsiCo ranks among the top three Super Bowl advertisers based on spending from 2010 to 2014, paying \$76.6 million on network advertising alone in the last five years, according to WPP's Kantar Media.

"It used to be that the whole thing lived and died based on what happened on game day on the TV in the living room," said Allen Adamson, chairman of the North American region of Landor Associates, a brand consulting firm.

"Now, it is: How do you

manage up to the top of the mountain and how do you manage it down?"

NBC, which is televising the game, said Wednesday that it had sold out advertising time for the broadcast.

Spots started at a record \$4.5 million for 30 seconds of commercial time. The broadcaster said that it had sold slightly more than 70 total commercial units, with 15 first-time Super Bowl advertisers buying spots.

Pepsi, which is sponsoring the Super Bowl halftime show for the third time in a row this year, starts planning its marketing blitz soon after the clock runs out on the previous year's game.

The idea this year was to try to bring the excitement surrounding the show to different places across the country, staging events designed to create material for commercials as well as for people to share their experiences on social media. The brand's efforts included more than 40 promotional activities, starting on Thanksgiving Day with a spot that featured a Pepsi-sponsored concert for military veterans featuring the country music star Blake Shelton.

Hallmark Channel's Kitten Bowl teams vie for purring rights

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Football tampering is inevitable when felines take the field Sunday in Hallmark Channel's Kitten Bowl.

But the kitties simply can't help the fact that claws and balls don't go together, the channel said, so don't expect an NFL-style deflation investigation.

"Our issues tend to be more related to the size of the 'yarnage' markers on the 'kitiron' and, of course, the length of their milk breaks," said Bill Abbott, president and CEO of Hallmark parent Crown Media Family Networks.

In other words, cute trumps controversy when fluffy,

big-eyed kitties are involved — as it should.

"Kitten Bowl II" kicks off at noon EST, starting with semi-final matches between the Northpole Panthers and Hallmark Channel Hearties and the Good Witch Wildcats versus the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Mountain Lions. The winners then play for ultimate purring rights.

It's all for a good cause: The Kitten Bowl is part of Crown Media's ongoing effort to promote the adoption of shelter animals.

Hallmark goes for giggles as well, with "quarternats" dubbed Tawny Unitas, Ryan Fitzpatrick and Joe Montuna. John Sterling and Mary Carillo host the big



This photo provided by Crown Media Family Networks shows kittens playing football in a scene from the Hallmark Channel's "Kitten Bowl II," airing on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, 12 p.m. ET/PT, 11 CT.

(AP Photo/Menachem Adelman)

game, with Boomer Esiason serving as Feline Football

League commissioner. The kitty contest isn't the

only alternative to Sunday's Super Bowl match between the Seattle Seahawks and New England. The Patriots faced questions about allegedly underinflated balls after the team's win over the Indianapolis Colts.

Fish Bowl II is on the National Geographic Channel, and there's Animal Planet's Puppy Bowl (3 p.m. EST) that kicked off the trend and is in its 11th year. The latter also promotes pet adoption.

Viewers lap it all up. Last year's Puppy Bowl drew 13.5 million viewers, with the inaugural Kitten Bowl watched by 1 million. That's not the 2014 Super Bowl's 112.2 million viewers, but it beats a bowl of kibble.

In battle of the big phones, Samsung's off, Apple gains

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Samsung lost the battle of the big phones last quarter as Apple's copycat large iPhone lured buyers in the crucial Chinese market.

The South Korean company said Thursday its October-December profit sank, with an improvement in its semiconductor business insufficient to mask its mobile problems.

It was in China, the world's largest market for smartphones, where Samsung's dramatic decline was most evident. Its weakness there is a key reason why Samsung's share of global smartphone sales dropped to about one quarter last year from a one-third share in 2013.

Apple Inc. contributed to Samsung's latest reversal in fortune, launching iPhones with bigger screens that robbed Samsung's Galaxy phones of a key selling point. Samsung was already battling competition in low-end phones from upstart manufacturers such as China's Xiaomi.

Samsung is struggling in countries such as China because "they're sort of being eaten from the bottom up by regional players" including Huawei and Xiaomi, said Ben Bajaran, an analyst at Silicon Valley research firm Creative Strategies.

"And now with Apple being competitive in larger phones, you're seeing Samsung losing any edge they had at the high end," he said.

In the second quarter last year, Xiaomi overtook Samsung to become the biggest selling smartphone maker in China. Samsung now ranks third in that market, after Apple raced to the top in the fourth quarter, according to research company Canalys.

Thanks to its bigger iPhones, Apple sold a record 74.5 million iPhones last quarter, which along with high prices helped make it the world's most profitable company.

According to Strategy Analytics, Apple tied Samsung in global smartphone sales, the first time Samsung has not had a big lead since late 2011. The research firm said Apple's new iPhones were "wildly popular" in China as well as the United States and Europe. Counterpoint, another market research firm, put Apple narrowly ahead of Samsung.

A third firm, International Data Corp., estimated Apple came just short of a tie with Samsung. It's not unusual for research firms to produce slightly different estimates. But IDC said Apple's sales were especially "impressive" because the new iPhone models are selling at a higher average price than older models, at a time when Samsung and other rivals are competing to offer phones at significantly lower prices. Apple shares gained 1.5 percent Thursday and are up more than 7 percent since it announced iPhone sales figures for the December quarter.

Samsung, in contrast, reported its fourth straight drop in quarterly earnings. Profit sank 27 percent to 5.3 trillion won (\$4.9 billion). Strategy Analytics estimated that Samsung shipped 74.5 million smartphones in the quarter, down from nearly 90 million in the previous year's quarter. Samsung has not given a precise figure but estimated it sold between 72.2 million and 75.1 million smartphones.

Until September, Apple lacked one thing that Samsung and other phone-makers had: a supersized smartphone screen. Apple's older iPhone 5 had a screen that measured 4 inches diagonally, while screens of 5 inches or larger have been the standard in Asia for more than a year. □

Waze traffic app concerns law officers

EILEEN SULLIVAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. sheriffs said Wednesday that Google's popular Waze traffic app is making it harder to nab speeders, adding to earlier police complaints that a feature in the software that lets drivers warn others about nearby police activity is putting officers' lives at risk.

The National Sheriffs' Association had previously focused its campaign against Waze on police safety after the fatal shootings of two New York police officers in December. It broadened its campaign with a new statement criticizing Google's software as hampering the use of speed traps. The trade association said radar guns and other speed enforcement techniques have reduced highway deaths.

"This app will hamper those activities by locating law enforcement officers and puts the public at risk," the group said.

In the Waze app, which operates like a free GPS navigation tool, users can tag the locations of parked police vehicles, accidents, congestion, traffic cameras, potholes and more, so that other drivers using Waze are warned as they approach the same location.

In a twist, the newly expressed concern about speeding is also Google's own defense of its software.

"Most users tend to drive more carefully when they believe law enforcement is nearby," Waze spokeswoman Julie Mossler said. Waze actually gained popularity in the last week since The Associated Press first disclosed law enforcement's concerns, climbing four positions to No. 8 on Apple's ranking of the top free mobile apps.

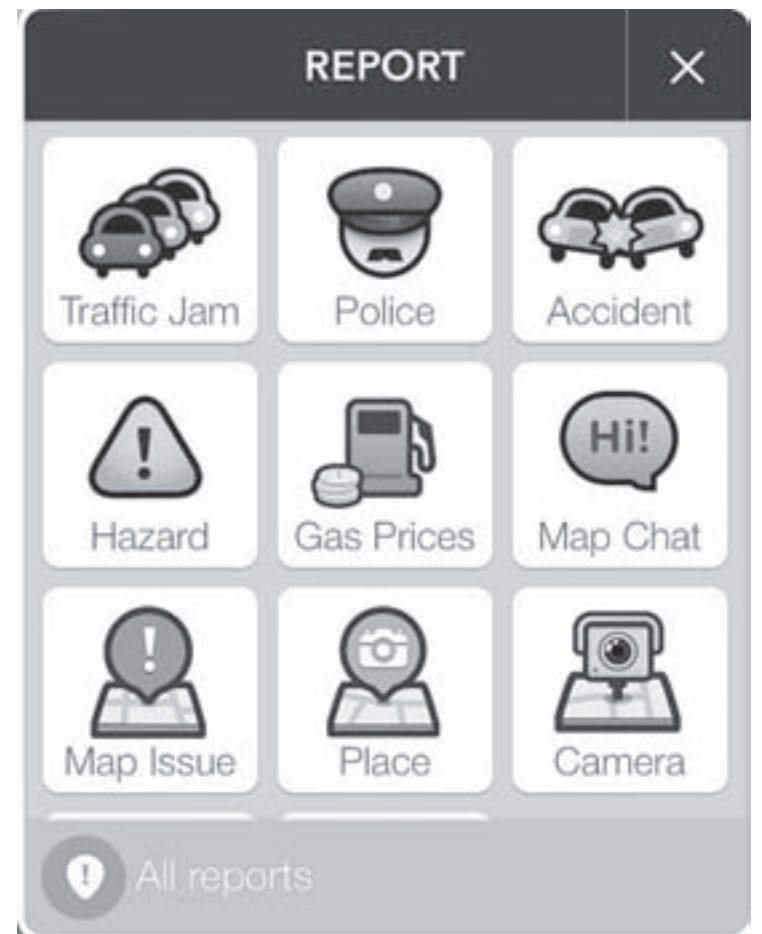
The Los Angeles Police Department chief and the executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police have echoed the sheriffs' concerns about police safety but have not said anything about it interfer-

ing with catching speeders. Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat, who in 2011 raised issues with mobile apps that identified drunken driving checkpoints, is concerned about the Waze app police-reporting feature, according to his office.

Other major police trade groups had not yet for-

break.

Police objections to Waze add new complexity to the debate about technology and privacy. Some Waze supporters lashed out at outspoken sheriffs on social media, pointing to the irony of police concerns about being watched amid sensational disclosures about police



A page from the Waze app is seen in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015. (Associated Press)

mally joined the sheriffs' campaign. Some police departments near San Francisco, where Google is headquartered, did not share the same concerns. Heather Randol, a spokeswoman for the San Jose Police Department, said the department does not have much information about the software's impact.

"However, part of our police model includes a highly visible police presence to reduce crime," Randol said.

Waze users mark locations of police vehicles — which are generally stopped in public spaces — on maps without much distinction other than "visible" or "hidden." Users driving nearby see a police icon, but it's not immediately clear whether police are there for a speed trap, a sobriety check or a lunch

and government surveillance of citizens.

Sheriff Mike Brown of Bedford County, Virginia, said states might pass laws to prevent people from revealing the locations of parked police cruisers. Privacy advocates, however, said First Amendment protections will stand in the way.

"Waze represents person-to-person information in the public square," said Nuala O'Connor, head of the Center for Democracy and Technology, a Washington civil liberties group, who said she uses the software. "And that's long been a U.S. right under the Constitution."

There are no known connections between any violent attack on police and the Waze software. But Brown and others believe it is only a matter of time. □

Alibaba shares tumble on 4th quarter revenue miss

MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Alibaba's Group shares dropped 10 percent on Thursday after the Chinese e-commerce powerhouse reported holiday-quarter revenue that surged 40 percent but missed analyst expectations.

It was the second day of stock decline follow-

ing news Wednesday that the Chinese government had issued a report critical about Alibaba's efforts to deal with counterfeiting.

The two-day decline has shaved about \$38 billion off the company's previous \$264 billion market capitalization and is making some wonder if the bloom is off the rose for investors, who had clamored to buy the

stock in September when Alibaba went public in the biggest IPO ever.

Stifel Nicolaus analyst Scott Devitt said the honeymoon period was ending and cut his rating to "Hold" from "Buy" based on increased risk of clashes with the Chinese government and lower revenue expectations. Still there were some highlights in the report. Al-

ibaba's adjusted fourth-quarter earnings beat expectations as its user base continued to grow and shoppers bought more on mobile phones. In the October to December quarter, net income fell 28 percent to 5.84 billion yuan (\$957 million), or 37 cents per share, from 8.27 billion yuan a year ago. Excluding one-time stock option

and other costs, earnings totaled 81 cents per share. That beat analyst expectations of 75 cents per share, according to a survey by FactSet. But revenue during the crucial holiday quarter was disappointing. Although revenue climbed to 26.18 billion yuan (\$4.22 billion) from 18.75 billion yuan, it fell short of expectations for \$4.44 billion. □

Strong earnings and job news give Wall Street a lift

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

After a shaky start, U.S. stocks rebounded Thursday, snapping a two-day losing streak.

Investors welcomed better-than-expected quarterly results from several companies, including Ford, Coach and Harley-Davidson. Homebuilder stocks surged.

Even energy stocks, which were down most of the day, recovered in concert with a slight uptick in oil prices. Benchmark U.S. crude oil rose 8 cents to close at \$44.53 a barrel.

New government data showing that applications for unemployment benefits fell to the lowest level in almost 15 years added a dash of favorable economic news.

The broader market rally helped the major stock indexes regain some of the ground they lost earlier in the week, though they remain down for the year.

"We've had a bit of a turnaround since the lows we saw earlier in the day," said Anastasia Amoroso, global market strategist at J.P. Morgan Funds. "It appears

earnings outside of energy (stocks) have been rather strong."

Investors have had no shortage of market-moving news to digest this

week, from the outcome of a national election in Greece with potential implications for the Eurozone, to the Federal Reserve's latest take on the economy and interest rates. It's also the busiest week of the current earnings sea-

son, with 142 companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 scheduled to report. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 225.48 points, or 1.3 percent, to close at

stocks. Even energy stocks, which are down more than any other sector this year, eked out a 0.2 percent gain.

Electronics and audio equipment maker Harman International Industries led among the gainers, rising \$24, or 23.7 percent, to \$125.01. The company reported better-than-expected quarterly results and raised its profit forecast for the year.

Chipmaker Qualcomm notched the biggest drop among stocks in the S&P 500, shedding \$7.30, or 10.3 percent, to \$63.69.

The major market indexes drifted along through much of Thursday before turning higher in the afternoon. For much of the day, investors looked mainly on the latest batch of corporate earnings.

Homebuilders surged after PulteGroup reported that completed home sales increased 7 percent in the October-December quarter. PulteGroup climbed \$1.24, or 6 percent, to \$21.82. Rival Ryland Group led the sector, climbing \$2.95, or 8 percent, to \$39.62.

Traders also digested the implications of the steep drop in weekly unemployment benefit claims last week.

The big drop is a sign that hiring will likely remain healthy, which could bolster the case for the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates from near zero sooner, rather than later, said Doug Cote, chief market strategist for Voya Investment Management.

"The market is reacting to the Fed being intent on normalizing interest rate policy, and today's numbers added to that pressure," Cote said.

Higher interest rates tend to make stocks less attractive in comparison to bonds.

The S&P 500 hit a record in late December, and it's remained relatively close to that since. Expectations for earnings, meanwhile, have been sinking with the price of crude oil.

Some companies have given weaker outlooks for growth, citing the impact of falling oil or a strengthening dollar.

That's contributed to heightened volatility in the market this month. □



The delegation from Qatar, led by Finance Minister Ali Sherif Al Emadi, center, applauds during opening bell ceremonies at the Nasdaq MarketSite, in New York, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015. Others participating from Qatar are, front row from left, Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Investment Authority Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Thani; Qatari Ambassador to the U.S. Mohammed Jaham Al Kuwari; Governor of Qatar Central Bank Abdullah Bin Saoud Al Thani. At far right is Nasdaq General Consul Ed Wright. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

week, from the outcome of a national election in Greece with potential implications for the Eurozone, to the Federal Reserve's latest take on the economy and interest rates. It's also the busiest week of the current earnings sea-

17,416.85. The S&P 500 index gained 19.09 points, or 1 percent, to 2,021.25. The Nasdaq composite added 45.41 points, or 1 percent, to 4,683.41.

The gains were broad. All 10 sectors in the S&P 500 rose, led by materials

Ford beats estimates despite earnings, revenue dips

DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writer

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Ford Motor Co. is putting a tough year behind it and promising big things despite a bumpy global market. The Dearborn-based automaker's net income fell 56 percent to \$3.2 billion in 2014. Sales were down slightly, to 6.32 million cars and trucks, and revenue dropped 2 percent to

\$144.1 billion.

Ford had repeatedly warned that earnings would be lower as it invested for the future. The company spent heavily to introduce 24 vehicles worldwide, including a redesigned Mustang and the new aluminum-bodied F-150 pickup truck. Ford plowed money into five new plants in Asia and racked up expenses

for closing plants in Europe and Australia. It also launched the Lincoln luxury brand in China.

All that effort puts 2015 on track to be "a breakthrough year," Ford President and CEO Mark Fields said Thursday. Boatloads of Mustangs are steaming toward China and the redesigned Edge and Explorer are hitting the U.S. market just as SUV sales are

soaring. Ford says the new F-150 is already the fastest-selling vehicle on its lots. And with only 15 new vehicles this year, the company will spend less on costly launches.

Ford forecasts a pretax profit of \$8.5 billion to \$9.5 billion this year, up from a profit of \$6.3 billion in 2014. There are still some trouble spots. Ford is counting on economic improvement

in Brazil, Europe and India to help offset weakness in places like Russia. Ford lost around \$300 million in Russia last year because of sharp declines in sales and the ruble devaluation.

Ford also took an \$800 million charge in the fourth quarter because of currency controls in Venezuela and the constraints on what it can build and sell in the country. □

Ending Greece's Nightmare



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2015 New York Times

Alexis Tsipras, leader of the left-wing Syriza coalition, just became prime minister of Greece. He will be the first European leader elected on an explicit promise to challenge the austerity policies that have prevailed since 2010. And there will, of course, be many people warning him to abandon that promise, to behave "responsibly."

So how has that responsibility thing worked out so far?

To understand the political earthquake in Greece, it helps to look at Greece's May 2010 "standby arrangement" with the International Monetary Fund, under which the so-called troika - the IMF, the European Central Bank and the European Commission - extended loans to the country in return for a combination of austerity and reform. It's a remarkable document, in the worst way. The troika, while pretending to be hardheaded and realistic, was peddling an economic fantasy. And the Greek people have been paying the price for those elite delusions.

You see, the economic projections that accompanied the standby arrangement assumed that Greece could impose harsh austerity with little effect on growth and employment. Greece was in recession when the deal was reached, but the projections assumed that this downturn would end soon - that there would be only a small contraction in 2011, and that by 2012 Greece would be recovering. Unemployment, the projections conceded, would rise substantially, from 9.4 percent in 2009 to almost 15 percent in 2012, but would then begin coming down fairly quickly.

What actually transpired was an economic and human nightmare. Far from ending in 2011, the Greek recession gathered momentum. Greece didn't hit the bottom until 2014, and by that point it had experienced a full-fledged depression, with overall unemployment rising to 28 percent and youth unemployment rising to almost 60 percent. And the recovery now underway, such as it is, is barely visible, offering no prospect of returning to precrisis living standards for the foreseeable future. What went wrong? I fairly often encounter assertions to the effect that Greece didn't carry through on its promises, that it failed to deliver the promised spending cuts. Nothing could be further from the truth. In re-

ality, Greece imposed savage cuts in public services, wages of government workers and social benefits. Thanks to repeated further waves of austerity, public spending was cut much more than the original program envisaged, and it's currently about 20 percent lower than it was in 2010.

Yet Greek debt troubles are if anything worse than before the program started. One reason is that the economic plunge has reduced revenues: The Greek government is collecting a substantially higher share of GDP in taxes than it used to, but GDP has fallen so quickly that the overall tax take is down. Furthermore, the plunge in GDP has caused a key fiscal indicator, the ratio of debt to GDP, to keep rising even though debt growth has slowed and Greece received some modest debt relief in 2012.

Why were the original projections so wildly overoptimistic? As I said, because supposedly hardheaded officials were in reality engaged in fantasy economics. Both the European Commission and the European Central Bank decided to believe in the confidence fairy - that is, to claim that the direct job-destroying effects of spending cuts would be more than made up for by a surge in private-sector optimism. The IMF was more cautious, but it nonetheless grossly underestimated the damage austerity would do.

And here's the thing: If the troika had been truly realistic, it would have acknowledged that it was demanding the impossible. Two years after the Greek program began, the IMF looked for historical examples where Greek-type programs, attempts to pay down debt through austerity without major debt relief or inflation, had been successful. It didn't find any.

So now that Tsipras has won, and won big, European officials would be well advised to skip the lectures calling on him to act responsibly and to go along with their program. The fact is they have no credibility; the program they imposed on Greece never made sense. It had no chance of working.

If anything, the problem with Syriza's plans may be that they're not radical enough. Debt relief and an easing of austerity would reduce the economic pain, but it's doubtful whether they are sufficient to produce a strong recovery. On the other hand, it's not clear what more any Greek government can do unless it's prepared to abandon the euro, and the Greek public isn't ready for that.

Still, in calling for a major change, Tsipras is being far more realistic than officials who want the beatings to continue until morale improves. The rest of Europe should give him a chance to end his country's nightmare. □



Library Visit, Then Held at Gunpoint



CHARLES M. BLOW
© 2015 New York Times

Saturday evening, I got a call that no parent wants to get. It was my son calling from college - he's a third-year student at Yale. He had been accosted by a campus police officer, at gunpoint!

This is how my son remembers it: He left for the library around 5:45 p.m. to check the status of a book he had requested. The book hadn't arrived yet, but since he was there he put in a request for some multimedia equipment for a project he was working on.

Then he left to walk back to his dorm room. He says he saw an officer "jogging" toward the entrance of another building across the grounds from the building he'd just left.

Then this: "I did not pay him any mind, and continued to walk back towards my room. I looked behind me, and noticed that the police officer was following me. He spoke into his shoulder-mounted radio and said, 'I got him.'"

"I faced forward again, presuming that the officer was not talking to me. I then heard him say, 'Hey, turn around!' - which I did.

"The officer raised his gun at me, and told me to get on the ground.

"At this point, I stopped looking directly at the officer, and looked down towards the pavement. I dropped to my knees first, with my hands raised, then laid down on my stomach. "The officer asked me what my

name was. I gave him my name. "The officer asked me what school I went to. I told him Yale University.

"At this point, the officer told me to get up."

The officer gave his name, then asked my son to "give him a call the next day."

My son continued:

"I got up slowly, and continued to walk back to my room. I was scared. My legs were shaking slightly. After a few more paces, the officer said, 'Hey, my man. Can you step off to the side?' I did."

The officer asked him to turn around so he could see the back of his jacket. He asked his name again, then, finally, asked to see my son's ID. My son produced his school ID from his wallet.

The officer asked more questions, and my son answered. All the while the officer was relaying this information to someone over his radio.

My son heard someone on the radio say back to the officer "something to the effect of: 'Keep him there until we get this sorted out.'" The officer told my son that an incident report would be filed, and then he walked away.

A female officer approached. My son recalled, "I told her that an officer had just stopped me and pointed his gun at me, and that I wanted to know what this was all about." She explained students had called about a burglary suspect who fit my son's description.

That suspect was apparently later arrested in the area.

When I spoke to my son, he was shaken up. I, however, was fuming.

Now, don't get me wrong: If indeed my son matched the description of a suspect, I would have had no problem with him being questioned appropriately. School is his community, his home away from home, and he would have appreciated reasonable efforts to keep it safe.

The stop is not the problem; the method of the stop is the problem.

Why was a gun drawn first? Why was he not immediately told why he was being detained? Why not ask for ID first?

What if my son had panicked under the stress, having never had a gun pointed at him before, and made what the officer considered a "suspicious" movement? Had I come close to losing him? Triggers cannot be unpulled. Bullets cannot be called back.

My son was unarmed, possessed no plunder, obeyed all instructions, answered all questions, did not attempt to flee or resist in any way.

This is the scenario I have always dreaded: my son at the wrong end of a gun barrel, face down on the concrete. I had always dreaded the moment that we would share stories about encounters with the police in which our lives hung in the balance, intergenerational stories of joining the inglorious "club."

When that moment came, I was exceedingly happy I had talked to him about how to conduct himself if a situation like this ever occurred. Yet I was brewing with sadness and anger that he had to use that advice.

I am reminded of what I have always known, but what some would choose to deny: that there is no way to work your way out - earn your way out - of this sort of crisis. In these moments, what you've done matters less than how you look.

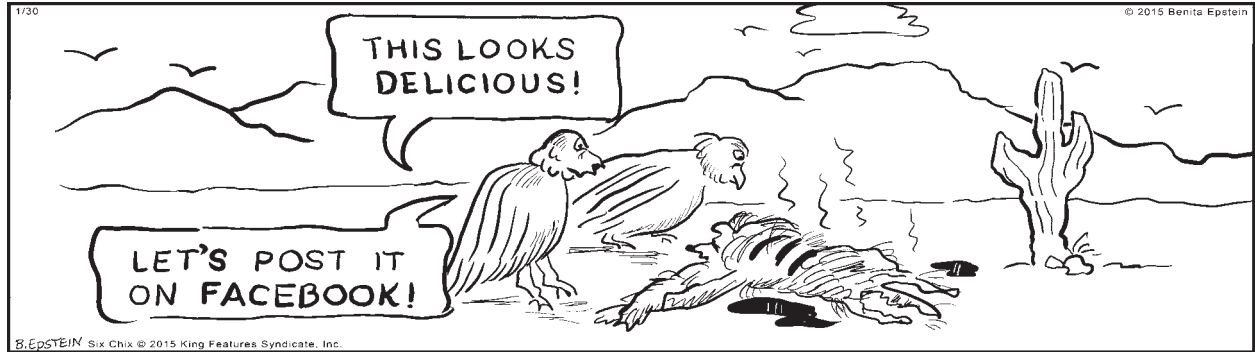
There is no amount of respectability that can bend a gun's barrel. All of our boys are bound together.

The dean of Yale College and the campus police chief have apologized and promised an internal investigation, and I appreciate that. But the scars cannot be unmade. My son will always carry the memory of the day he left his college library and an officer trained a gun on him. □

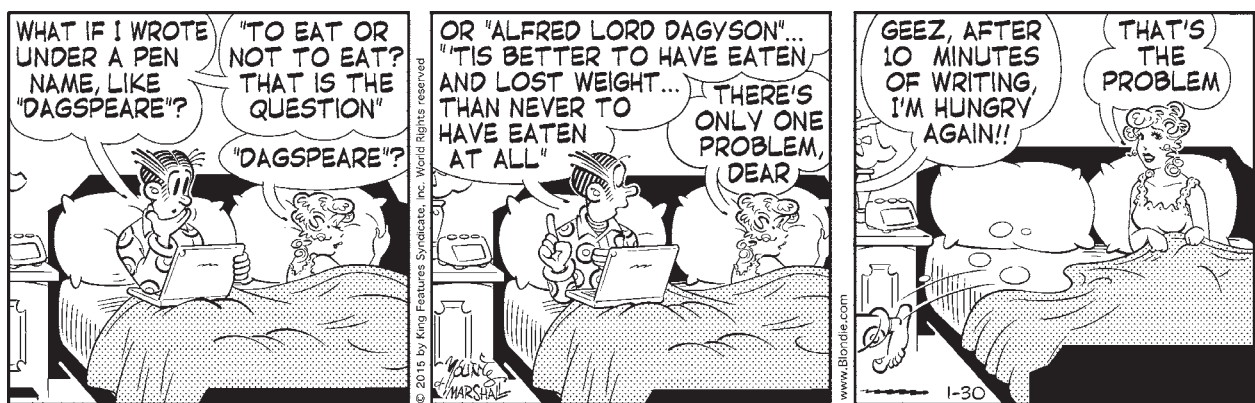
Mutts



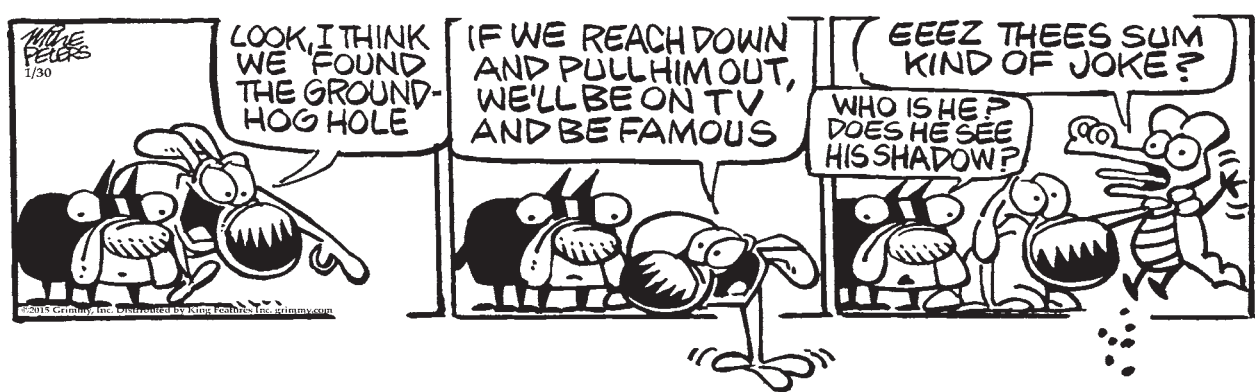
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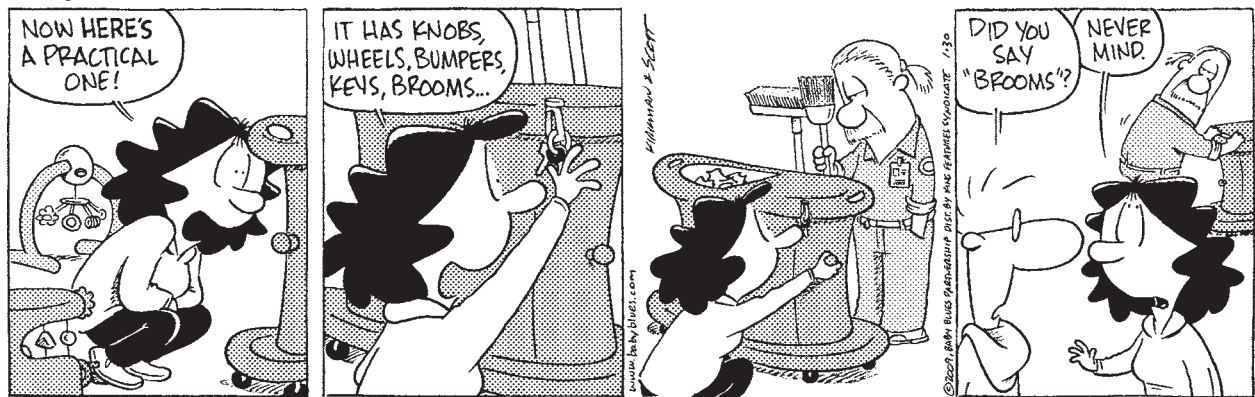
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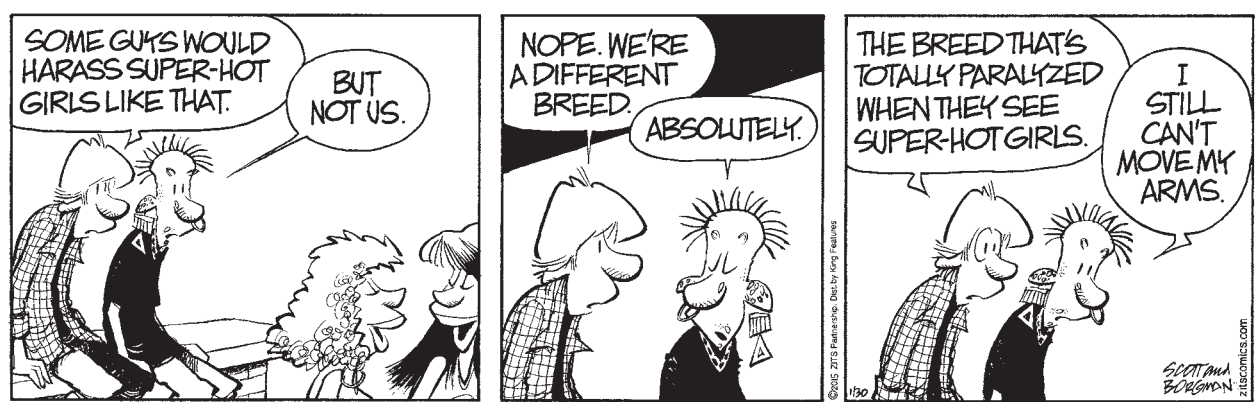
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			3	4			
5							1
	4		8	9		2	
7		6				1	9
4		1				8	5
	8		5	2		3	
2							4
			4	7			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/30

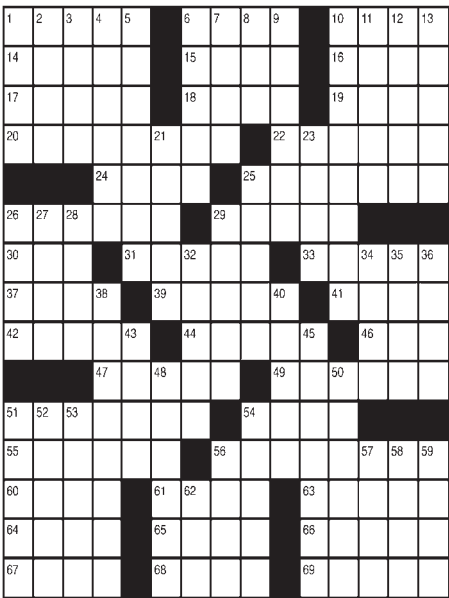
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	9	7	6	4	3	8	5	1
4	6	8	5	1	9	2	3	7
5	3	1	7	2	8	9	4	6
6	2	5	3	9	1	4	7	8
7	1	4	8	5	2	6	9	3
9	8	3	4	7	6	5	1	2
8	4	2	1	3	5	7	6	9
1	5	6	9	8	7	3	2	4
3	7	9	2	6	4	1	8	5

ACROSS

- 1 Rascal
- 6 Chimpanzees and gorillas
- 10 around; look for a good buy
- 14 FDR's affliction
- 15 Lounge about; loaf
- 16 Pigeon coop
- 17 Wide-awake
- 18 Actress Chase
- 19 Pitcher's delights
- 20 Pessimistic
- 22 Place where hangers hang
- 24 Kelly or Siskel
- 25 Tai Babilonia & Michelle Kwan
- 26 Mr. Einstein
- 29 Follow as a result of
- 30 double take; look twice
- 31 Layered rock
- 33 Sediment; leftover part
- 37 Gift for a little girl
- 39 North Pole toy shop workers
- 41 Store event
- 42 Coil of yarn
- 44 Fatigued
- 46 Incision
- 47 Shoe bottoms
- 49 Has a snack
- 51 Sparkle
- 54 Umpire's cry
- 55 Soup-serving implements
- 56 Barely acceptable
- 60 Qualified
- 61 Pierce
- 63 Like a messy fountain pen
- 64 Mothers of fawns
- 65 British noble
- 66 Up and about
- 67 Slips up
- 68 Heat in the microwave
- 69 Oliver or Sharon



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 1/30/15

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

FACT	SPRIG	ADAM
OVER	PRATE	GAGA
LILY	OUTSMARTED	
DDE	ANNS	TEASE
	BADGE	JOE
STRIDE	WILSON	
TEAMS	ITALL	VET
OPTS	SLANT	FEAR
WEE	MELEE	BERRA
EDDIES	DRESSY	
	ILK	FEAST
ASWAN	WILD	AYE
RHINESTONE	STEM	
MODE	KARAT	HELM
SEES	ANKLE	ESPY

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- 35 Sticky stuff
- 36 out; begins
- 38 Lethargic
- 40 Man in a casa
- 43 Short letter
- 45 General
- 48 Reduce
- 50 Most cunning
- 51 Forest opening
- 52 Toil
- 53 Lazybones
- 54 Fictional story
- 56 Gospel writer
- 57 Intl. alliance
- 58 Related
- 59 Harp of old
- 62 Plato's "T"

Classifieds



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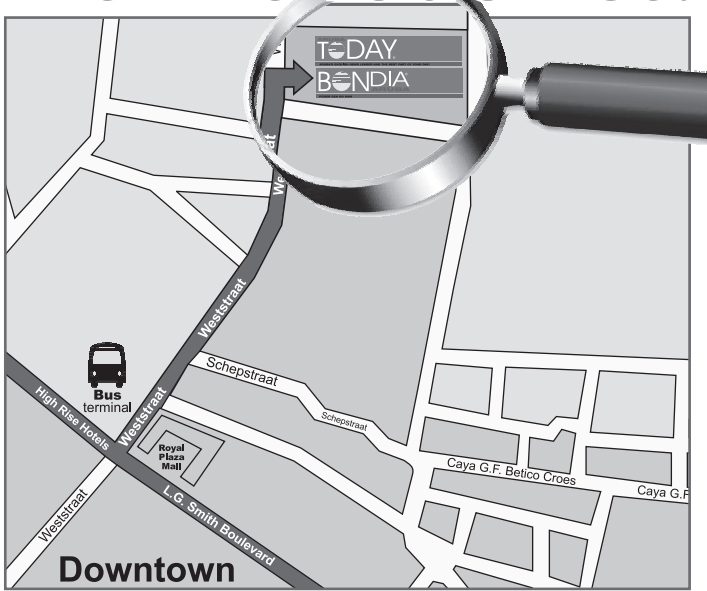
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3 BEDRM OV \$17k

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24/7

Charles Townes, who helped invent now-ubiquitous laser, dies

LISA LEFF

Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — Charles H. Townes' inspiration for the predecessor of the laser came to him while sitting on a park bench, waiting for a restaurant to open for breakfast.

On the tranquil morning of April 26, 1951, Townes scribbled a theory on scrap paper that would lead to the laser, the invention he's known for and which transformed everyday life and led to other scientific discoveries.

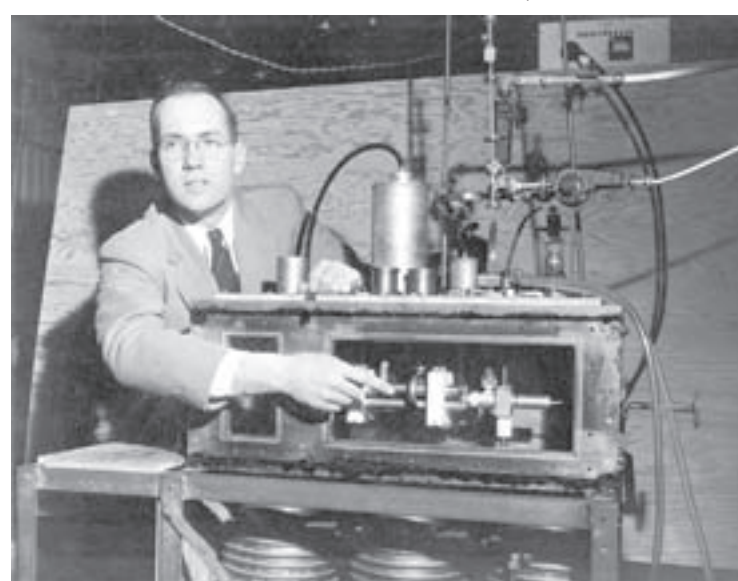
Townes, who was also known for his strong spiritual faith, famously compared that moment to a religious revelation.

The 99-year-old Nobel Prize-winning physicist died Tuesday.

In 1954, that theory was realized when Townes and his students developed the laser's predecessor, the maser (micro-wave amplification by

stimulated emission of radiation).

"I realized there would be many applications for the laser," Townes told Esquire magazine in 2001, "but it never occurred to



In this Jan. 25, 1955, file photo, Charles Hard Townes, Columbia University professor and Nobel laureate, explains his invention the maser during a news conference in New York City.

Associated Press

me we'd get such power from it."

The laser paved the way for other scientific discoveries that revolutionized

everything from medicine to manufacturing but also has a huge array of applications today: DVD players, gun sights, printers, computer networks, metal cutters, tattoo removal

and vision correction are just some of the tools and technologies that rely on lasers.

"Charlie Townes had an

enormous impact on physics and society in general," Steven Boggs, the chairman of the physics department at the University of California, Berkeley, said Wednesday.

A devoted member of the United Church of Christ, Townes drew praise and skepticism later in his career with a series of speeches and essays investigating the similarities between science and religion.

"Science tries to understand what our universe is like and how it works, including us humans," Townes wrote in 2005 upon being awarded the Templeton Prize for his contributions in "affirming life's spiritual dimension." The award, billed as the world's richest religion prize, was worth more than \$1.5 million, and past recipients have included Mother Teresa.

"My own view is that, while science and religion

may seem different, they have many similarities, and should interact and enlighten each other," he wrote.

Townes was a faculty member at Columbia University when he did most of the work that would make him one of three scientists to share the 1964 Nobel Prize in physics for research leading to the creation of the laser. The others were Russian physicists Aleksandr M. Prokhorov and Nicolai G. Basov.

Townes' research applied the microwave technique used in wartime radar research to the study of spectroscopy, the dispersion of an object's light into its component colors.

He envisioned that would provide a new window into the structure of atoms and molecules and a new basis for controlling electromagnetic waves. His insights eventually led to the first laser. □

Astronomers find solar system more than double ours in age

MARCIA DUNN

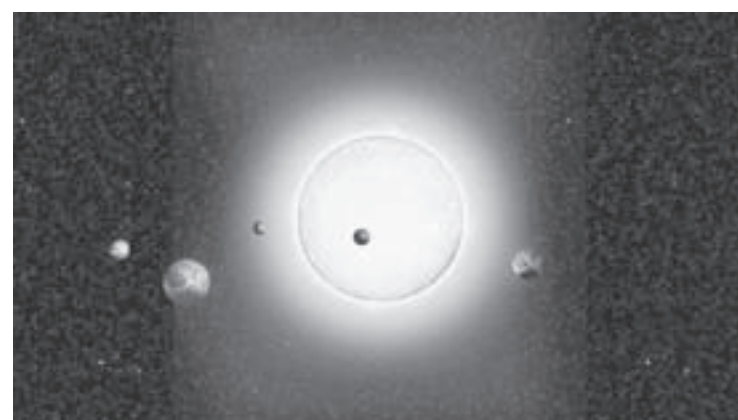
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — A newly discovered solar system — with five small rocky planets — makes ours look like a baby. An international team of astronomers announced Tuesday that this extrasolar system is 11.2 billion years old. With the age of the universe pegged at 13.8 billion years, this is the oldest star with close-to-Earth-size planets ever found.

By comparison, our solar system is 4.5 billion years old.

The five planets are smaller than Earth, with the largest about the size of Venus and the smallest just bigger than



This artist's rendering made available by Tiago Campante and Peter Devine shows the Kepler-444 star system, surrounded by at least five earth-sized planets.

Associated Press

Mercury. These planets orbit their star in less than 10 days at less than one-tenth the Earth's distance from the sun, which makes them too close for habitation, said the University of Sydney's

Daniel Huber, part of the team.

"We've never seen anything like this — it is such an old star and the large number of small planets make it very special," Hu-

ber said in a statement. "It is extraordinary that such an ancient system of terrestrial-sized planets formed when the universe was just starting out, at a fifth its current age." Lead researcher Tiago Campante of the University of Birmingham in England noted in a statement that by now knowing close-to-Earth-size planets formed so long ago, that "could provide scope for the existence of ancient life in the galaxy."

Campante, an asteroseismologist, measured oscillations from the star to determine the age and size of this compact system.

NASA's Kepler planet-hunting spacecraft was used

to make the observations over a four-year period. Thus, the bright sunlike star at the heart of this system is named Kepler-444. It's in the Constellation Lyre.

The team represented scientists from Europe, Australia and the United States. Their findings were reported in the latest edition of the Astrophysical Journal.

Kepler has discovered more than 1,000 confirmed exoplanets — planets outside our solar system — and nearly 4,200 candidates since its launch in 2009 and its revitalization in last year following a breakdown in its pointing system. It reached the 1,000-mark earlier this month. □



In this March 1, 1977 file photo, Australian author Colleen McCullough laughs during a news conference in New York. Associated Press

'The Thorn Birds' author Colleen McCullough dies

SYDNEY (AP) — Best-selling Australian author Colleen McCullough, whose novel "The Thorn Birds" sold 30 million copies worldwide, has died at age 77 after a long illness.

McCullough died Thursday in a hospital on remote Norfolk Island, HarperCollins Australia publishing director Shona Martyn said in a statement.

McCullough had continued producing books despite a string of health and eyesight problems by using dictation, Martyn said.

"Ever quick-witted and direct, we looked forward to her visits from Norfolk Island and the arrival of each new manuscript delivered in hard copy in custom-made maroon manuscript boxes inscribed with her name," Martyn said.

McCullough wrote 25 novels throughout her career. Her final book "Bittersweet" was released in 2013.

Her first novel "Tim" was published in 1974. It became a movie starring Mel Gibson, who played a young, intellectually disabled handyman who had a romance with a middle-aged woman.

Her second novel, "The Thorn Birds," published in 1977, became a U.S. television mini-series in 1983 starring Richard Chamberlain, Rachel Ward and Christopher Plummer. The Out-

back melodrama about a priest's struggle between church and love won four Golden Globe awards.

During the 1980s, she wrote love stories including "An Indecent Obsession" and "The Ladies of Missalonghi."

Her historical seven-novel series "Masters of Rome" was published from 1990 to 2007.

McCullough was born in the small town of Wellington in New South Wales state on June 1, 1937. The family moved to the state capital, Sydney, where she began studying at Sydney University to become a medical doctor until she discovered that she had an allergic reaction to the antiseptic soap that surgeons use to scrub.

She switched her studies to neuroscience and spent 10 years as a researcher at Yale Medical School in the United States. She established the neurophysiology department at Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital. She lived as an author in the United States and London before settling on Norfolk Island, a former British penal colony in the Pacific Ocean which became home to descendants of the HMS Bounty mutineers. In 1983 she married one of those descendants, Ric Robinson, who survives her. □

Tom Petty:

No hard feelings for Sam Smith

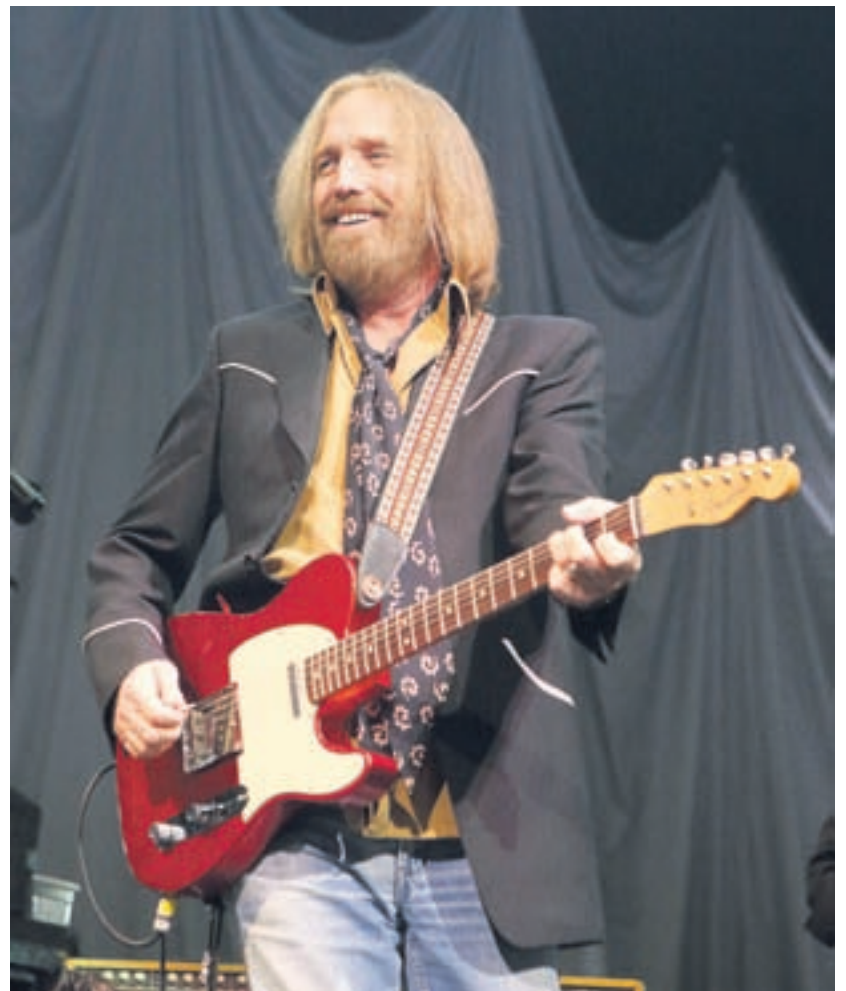
NEW YORK (AP) —

Tom Petty says he has no hard feelings toward singer Sam Smith and called the similarities between Smith's Grammy-nominated hit "Stay With Me" and Petty's 1989 song "I Won't Back Down" a musical accident.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer said in a statement posted to his website Thursday that "all my years of songwriting have shown me these things can happen. Most times you catch it before it gets out the studio door but in this case it got by."

He said he never intended to sue Smith and didn't know how their settlement agreement became public.

After Petty's song publishers pointed out the similarities, Smith quickly agreed to give Petty and his co-writer, Jeff Lynne, songwriting credits on



Tom Petty performs in concert with Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers during their 'Hypnotic Eye Tour 2014' in Philadelphia. Associated Press

"Stay With Me." The British artist's breakthrough hit sold more than 3.5 million tracks and is up for song of the year at next month's Grammy Awards.

Petty called the development "hardly news." "I wish Sam all the best for his ongoing career," Petty said. "Peace and love to all." □

Female 'Ghostbusters' cast announced

NEW YORK (AP) — The "Ghostbusters" reboot has set its all-female leads with Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig and a pair of "Saturday Night Live" performers. Director Paul Feig announced his stars by posting their pictures on Twitter on Tuesday. Joining McCarthy and Wiig are Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones.

Feig tweeted that Sony Pictures will release the film in July 2016. Production is expected to begin later this year. The new "Ghostbusters" updates the original 1984 film and the 1989 sequel.

Wiig and McCarthy both starred in "Bridesmaids," which Feig directed. He has since worked with McCarthy on all of his films, including their upcoming



Kristen Wiig poses in the press room at the 72nd annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

action comedy "Spy." the show as a writer and McKinnon joined "SNL" in transitioned into a featured player last fall. □

With Waller tribute; Pianist Jason Moran garners Grammy nod

CHARLES J. GANS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Pianist Jason Moran made it his mission on his latest album to bring a Harlem jazz legend “back into the conversation” in the 21st century. He’s exceeded expectations by garnering his first Grammy nomination for his unorthodox tribute to singer-pianist-songwriter Fats Waller.

Moran says he was “shocked and so elated” when his ninth Blue Note album, “All Rise: A Joyful Elegy for Fats Waller,” was nominated for best jazz instrumental album, putting him in the same company with pianists Chick Corea and Fred Hersch, among others.

“I wanted to look at his music with the spirit that I thought he played from,”

Ndegeocello, who co-produced the album and freely interpreted Waller’s lyrics on several tracks.

The album sprung from a 2011 commission from the performing arts venue Harlem Stage Gatehouse to do a concert honoring Waller. Moran’s wife, singer Alicia Hall Moran, suggested he do an updated version of the Harlem dance parties where Waller got the joint jumpin’.

The 39-year-old Moran — a 2010 MacArthur “genius” fellow who recently composed the score to the film “Selma” — felt something was missing from the modern jazz scene where audiences listen intently without leaving their seats.

“For me as a professional musician who claims to play jazz, I had never played for a dancing au-

hop and R&B recordings by A Tribe Called Quest, The Roots and De La Soul.

“I thought it would have been definitely a detriment to this project if it just sounded like a jazz record,” Ndegeocello said. “It was great to work with such an accomplished, virtuosic pianist as Jason ... who took these great songs and created something different with them.” On “Ain’t Misbehavin’” Ndegeocello’s whispery, sultry vocals float over a funky groove from Moran’s Fender Rhodes, while “Ain’t Nobody’s Business” is turned into a slow jam.

Two tracks feature Moran’s trio Bandwagon with drummer Nasheet Waits and bassist Tarus Mateen, who have a special chemistry after playing together for 15 years. Moran



This undated image released by Blue Note Records shows pianist Jason Moran. Moran received his first Grammy nomination for best jazz instrumental album for his unorthodox tribute to singer-pianist-songwriter Fats Waller “All Rise: A Joyful Elegy For Fats Waller.” Associated Press

Moran said in a phone interview from his Harlem apartment. “He played for the people, and he was also a commentator on the nation, especially during the Great Depression.” While respecting the tradition, Moran deconstructed and reshaped such Waller classics as “Ain’t Misbehavin’” and “Honeysuckle Rose,” adding hip-hop, R&B, Afrobeat, funk and other modern influences. He enjoyed the support of singer-songwriter Meshell

dience. ... That was my goal. Could I make music where people would want to dance?”

Moran enlisted the genre-bending Ndegeocello who brought a high-energy level and ability to move the music in different directions.

For “All Rise,” she brought in drummer Charles Haynes (Lady Gaga, Kanye West) to lay down powerful grooves and engineer Bob Power, who worked on seminal hip-

displays his virtuosity on “Handful of Keys,” a solo homage to Waller’s piano legacy with a modern take on his Harlem stride piano style.

“I’m always giving praise to Fats Waller,” said Moran. “Waller is already in the Grammy Hall of Fame, so maybe he is pinching off a piece for me.”

The 57th annual Grammy Awards will air live Feb. 8 from the Staples Center in Los Angeles. The awards show will air on CBS. □



Actress Kerry Butler attends the 56th annual Drama Desk Awards in New York. The Tony Award-nominated star of “Xanadu” said Thursday she will play Hillary Rodham Clinton when the irreverent show “Clinton: The Musical” lands at New World Stages. Performances begin March 26.

(AP Photo/Charles Sykes)

Kerry Butler to join ‘Clinton: The Musical’ off-Broadway

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kerry Butler’s next role will take her to the White House — the Clinton White House, that is.

The Tony Award-nominated star of “Xanadu” said Thursday she will play Hillary Rodham Clinton when the irreverent show “Clinton: The Musical” lands at New World Stages. Performances begin March 25.

The show explores and lampoons the Clinton presidency with appearances from actors playing Monica Lewinsky, Newt Gingrich, Dick Morris and Kenneth Starr. Bill Clinton is portrayed by two actors at the same time, one serious and the other randy.

Butler, who volunteered for Hillary Rodham Clinton’s campaign for president, was initially hesitant about mocking the politician but was assured by people who know Clinton that it would be better to have someone onstage willing to protect her.

“I have pushed them to make her stronger,” Butler said. “I feel like she gets a bad rap. I’ve been doing so much research and a lot of the interviews I’ve

seen she comes off as very sweet. I think that people are intimidated by her education and that she’s a lawyer. And because she’s a woman, they just put her in this category. In all the things I’ve watched, it doesn’t seem that she’s like that.”

The story is by Australian brothers Paul and Michael Hodge and Paul Hodge wrote the music. It’s directed and choreographed by Dan Knechtges, who also choreographed “Xanadu.”

It arrives as Clinton is the leading Democratic candidate should she run for president in 2016. “If it’s going to go, it should go now,” Butler said. “It’s really funny and timely.”

The musical was nominated for Best New Musical at the 2012 Edinburgh Festival Fringe and transferred to London’s King’s Head Theatre in 2013. Last year, it played the New York Musical Theatre Festival.

Butler’s other Broadway credits include “Catch Me If You Can,” “The Best Man” and “Rock of Ages.” She was also recently seen off-Broadway in “The Call,” “Big” and “Under My Skin.” □



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